

FAIRY TAIL

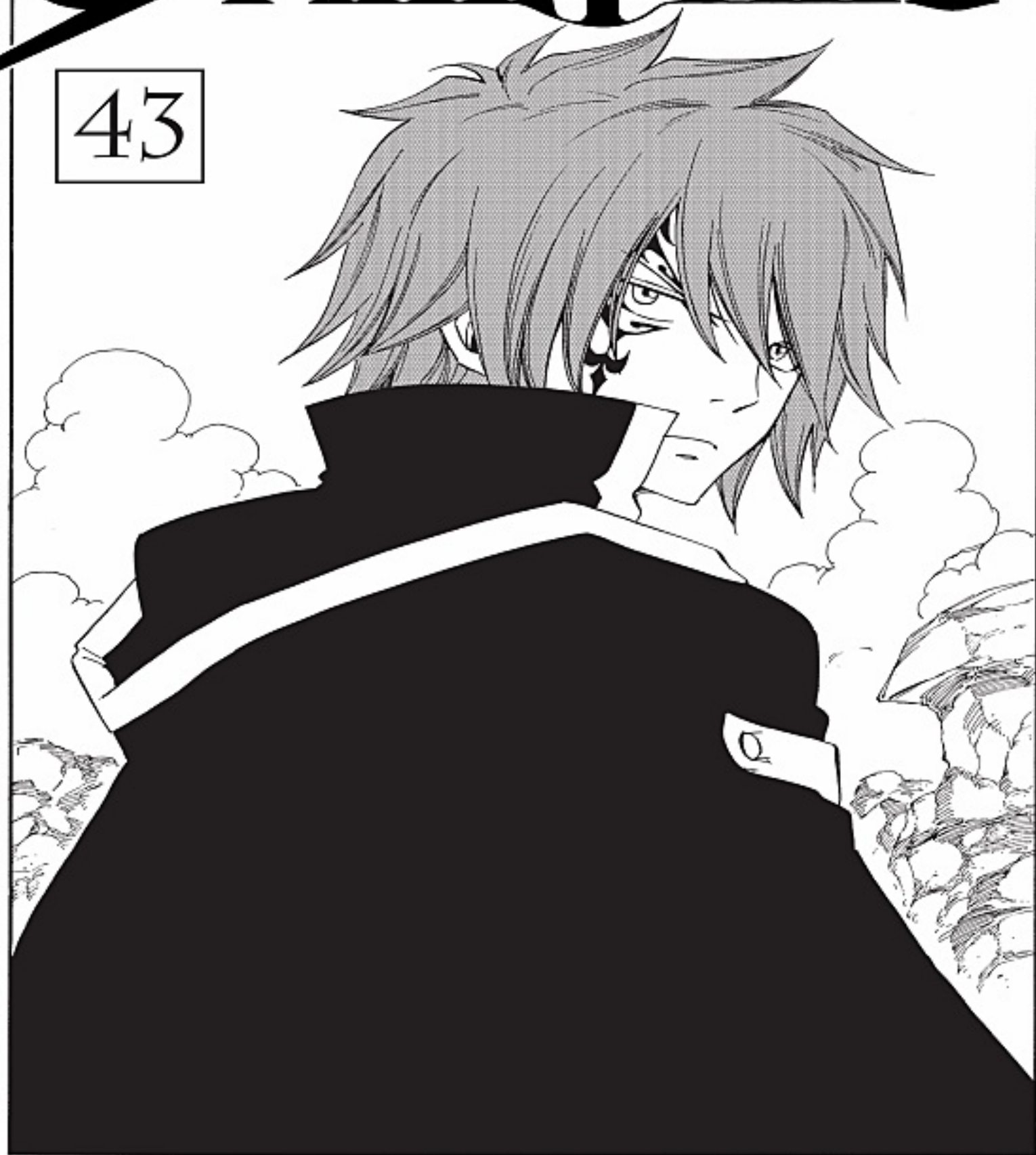
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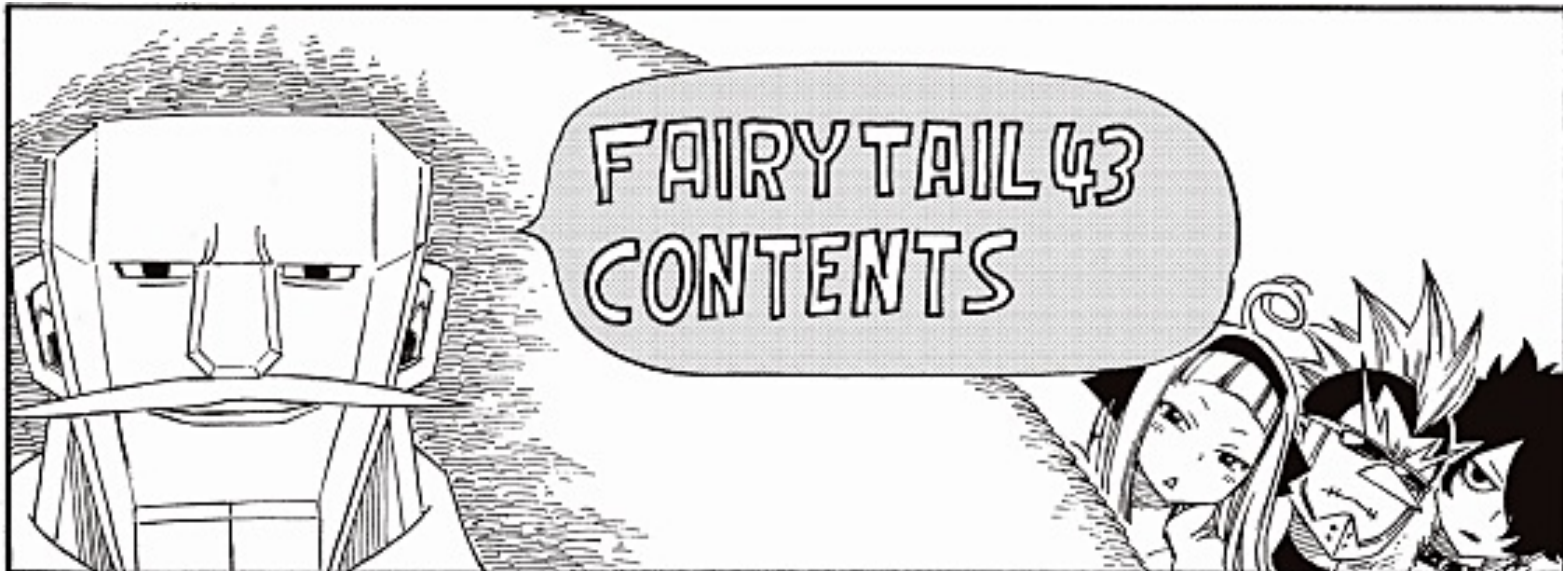
Hiro Mashima

FAIRY TAIL

43



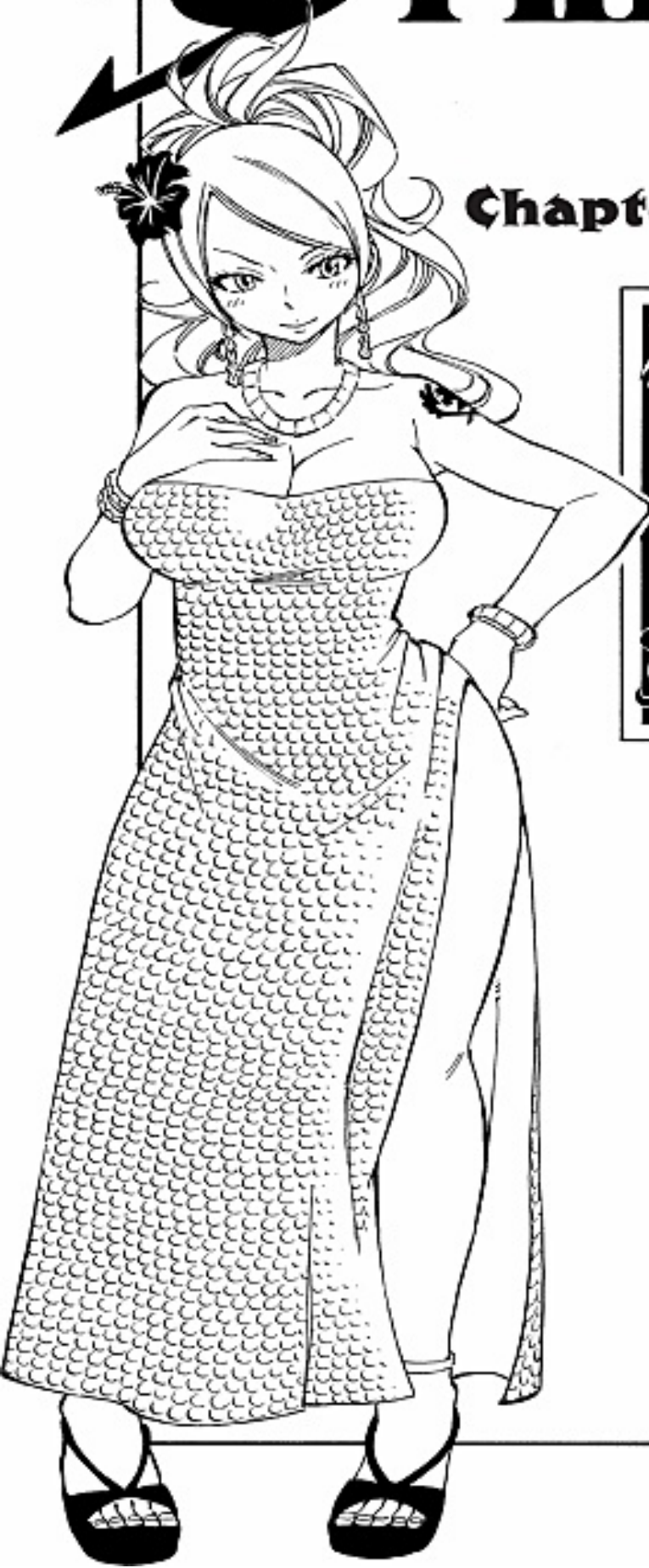
HIRO MASHIMA



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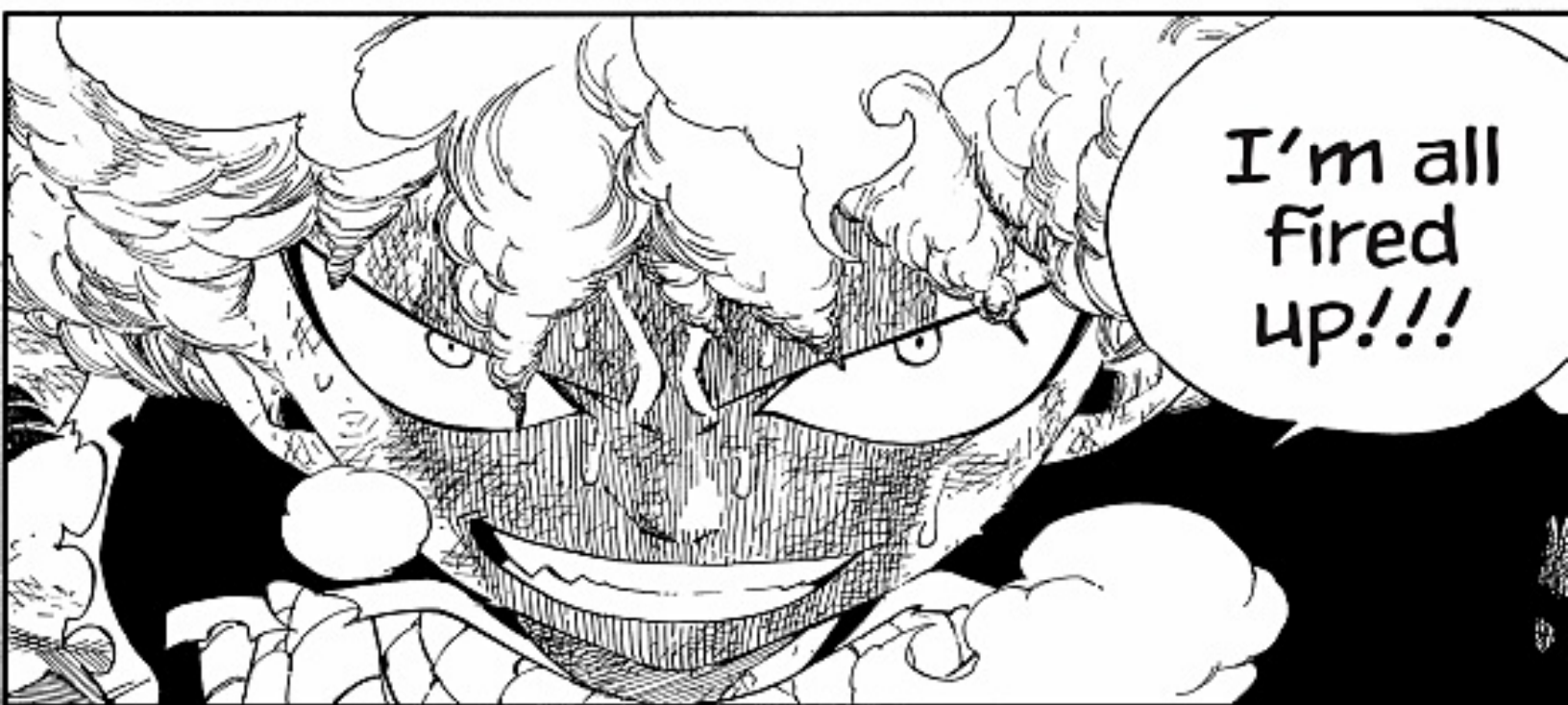
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Chapter 362: Natsu vs. Jackal



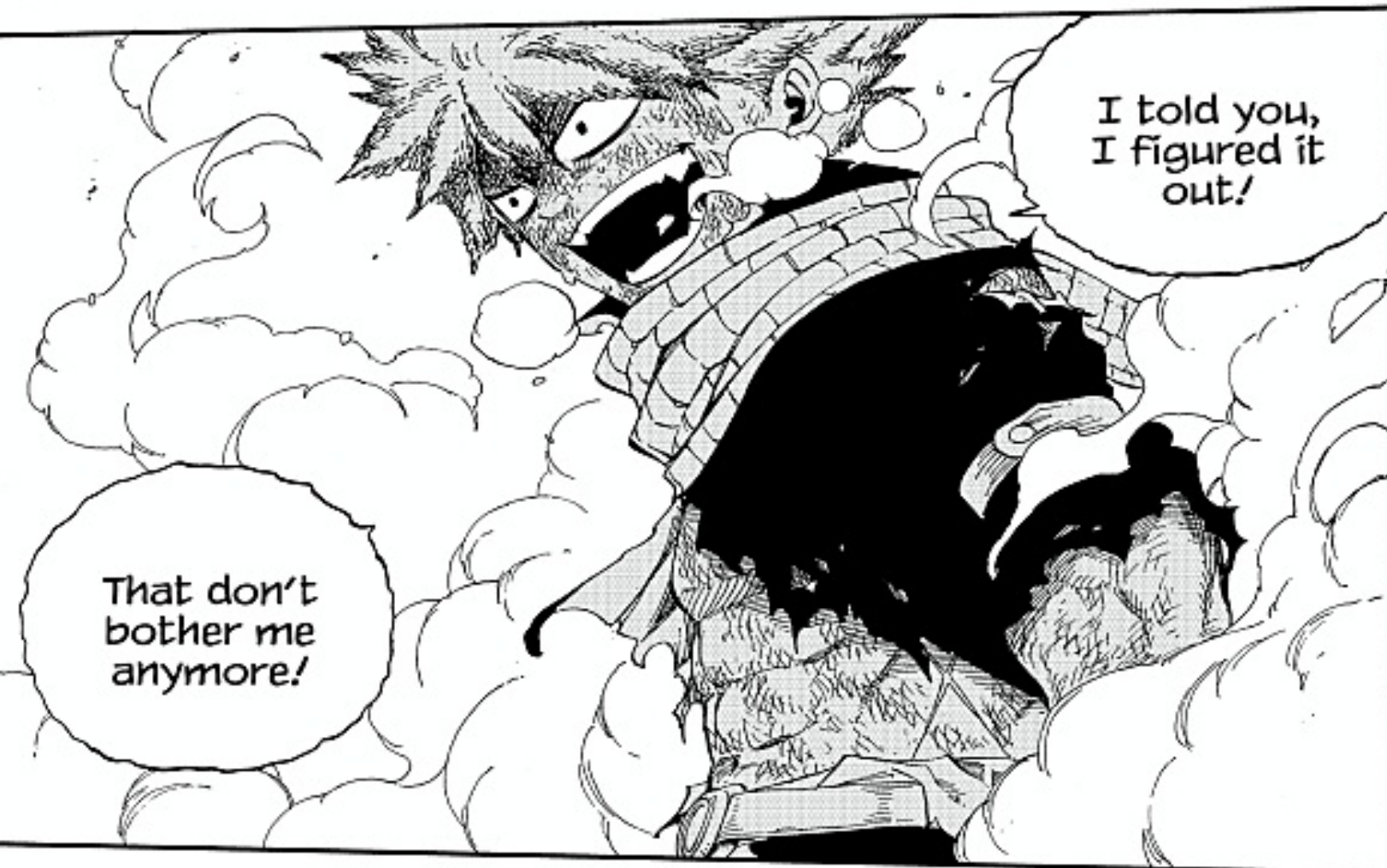
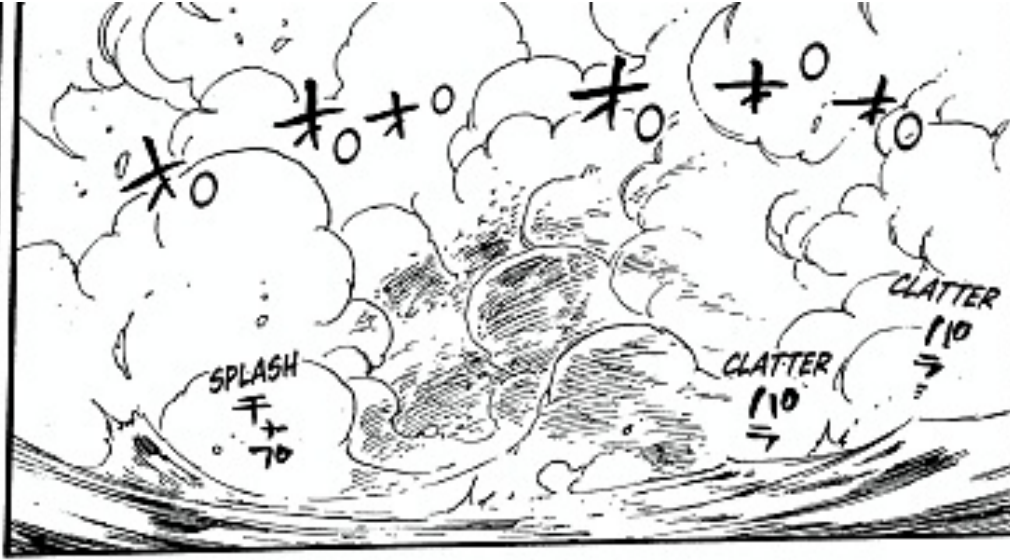
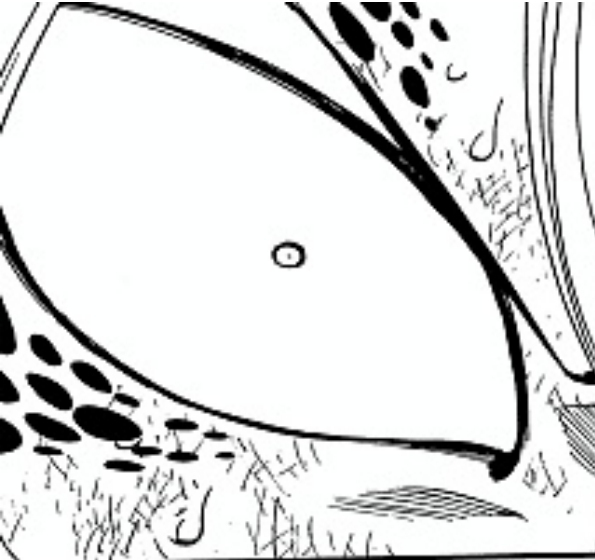
Remarks

The top pinup model for Weekly Sorcerer. Seven years ago, she and Mirajane were rivals for the top model spot, and now they are both good friends and good rivals. Her magic is Machina Soul, which allows her to transform into an outfit armed with heavy weaponry. Whenever she touches a machine, she can make its power her own. She lost a bet with Mira during the Grand Magic Games and had to pose nude for Weekly Sorcerer Magazine, but when the time came, she wasn't as embarrassed about it as everyone thought she would be.

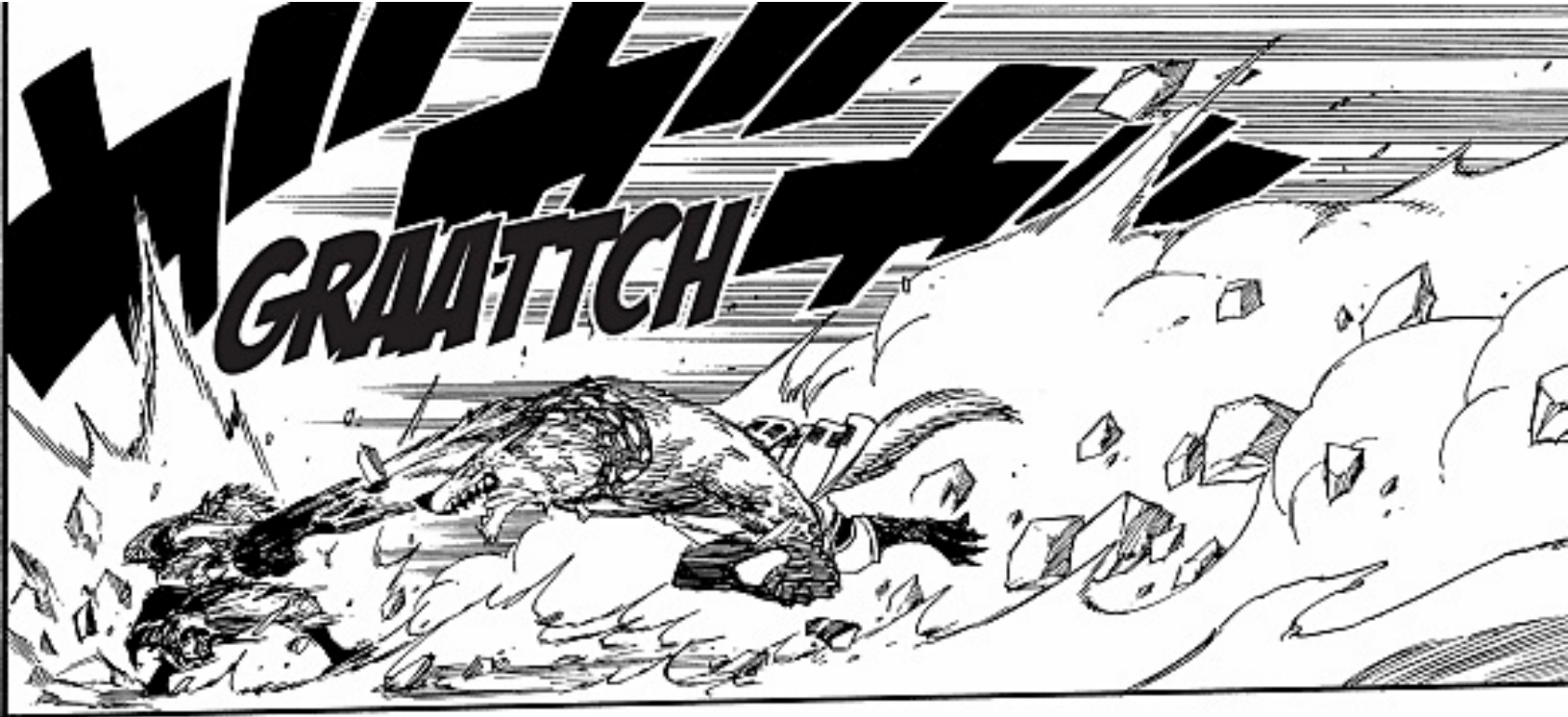


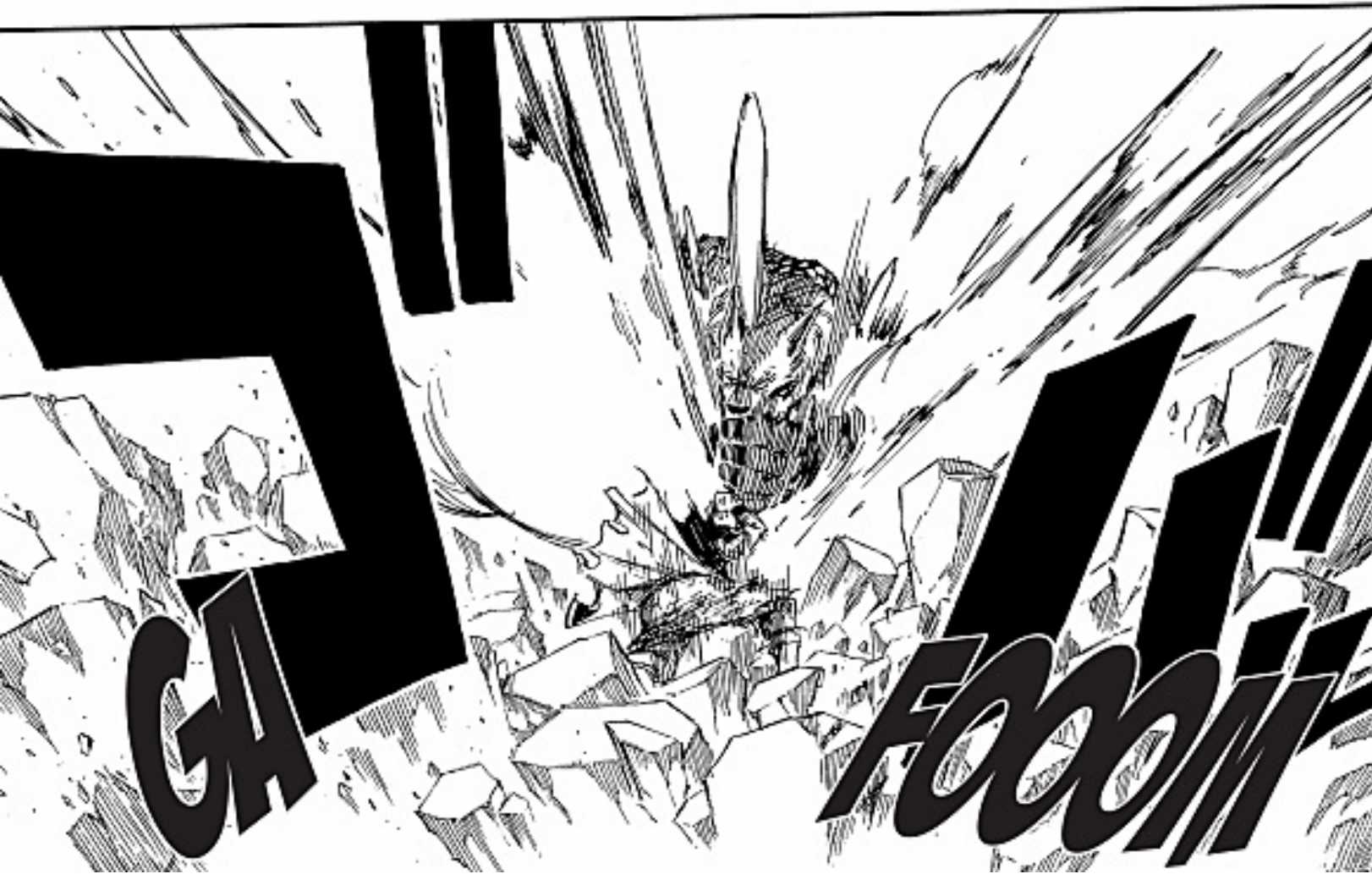














You humans
should know
better than to try
and pick a fight
with one of us
demons!! Know
your place!!



Demons
?!

You guys
are all
demons?!



Is that
the whole
reason
you're
fighting
us?!!!



This is your
doomsday,
humans
!!!!

FX
FLASH

Arggh!

DO
KAAMI

Well, we
ain't like
you
!!!!

We don't care
if it's humans
or demons or
gods that we're
fighting!!!!

We're
fighting for
our wounded
friends!!!!

CHHT

CHHT

Gimme
a bit
of your
power
here,
Lexus
!!!!

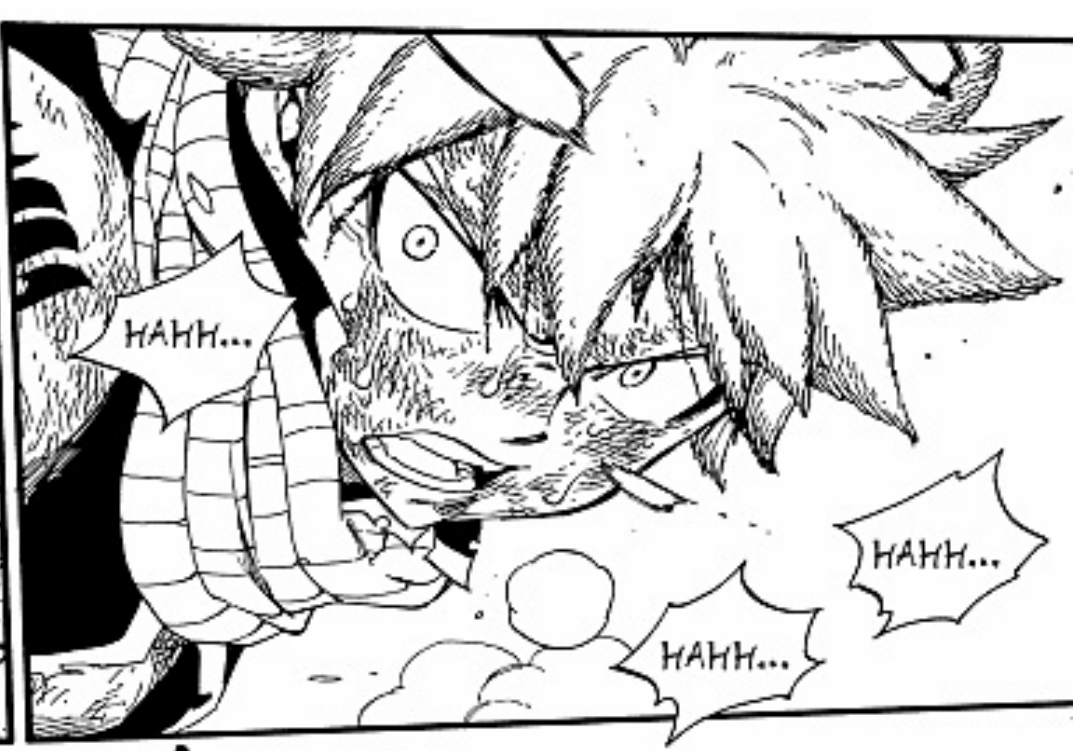
!!!





**RAIEN-
RYŪ
NO
GEKI-
TETSU***

!!!!







My bad,
Kyôka...

Man, this
sucks...



...when
I fall!!!

But at least
I can take all
these guys
with me...



Is he
trying to
blow up
the entire
town?!!

It
can't
be...

Wh-What
is this...?



You're
too late!

The bomb is
my own body!
You could kill
me, and that still
wouldn't stop it
from going off!



Don't
do it!!!!



The whole
town is
going
to...

What
can we
do...?



Kah ha
ha!

I'll see
you in
hell!

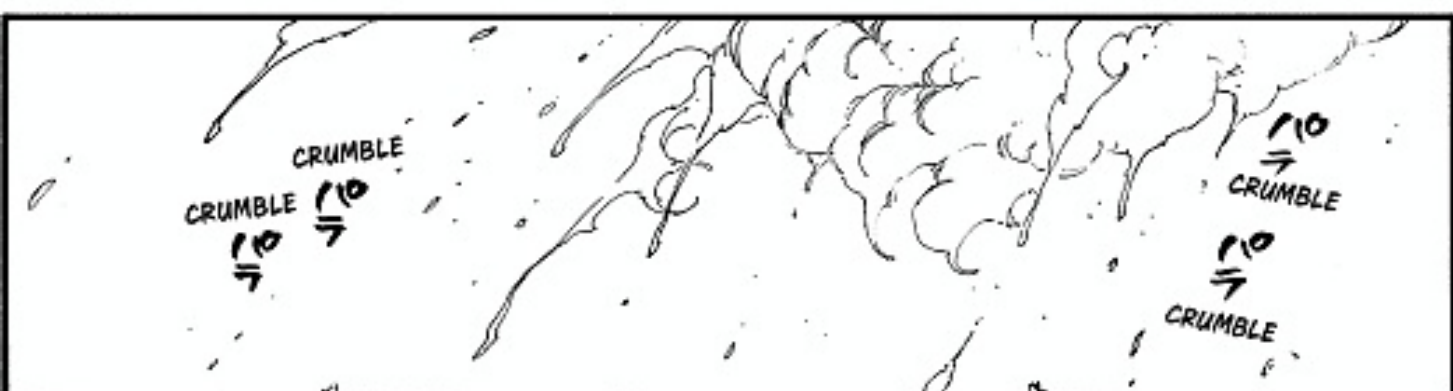
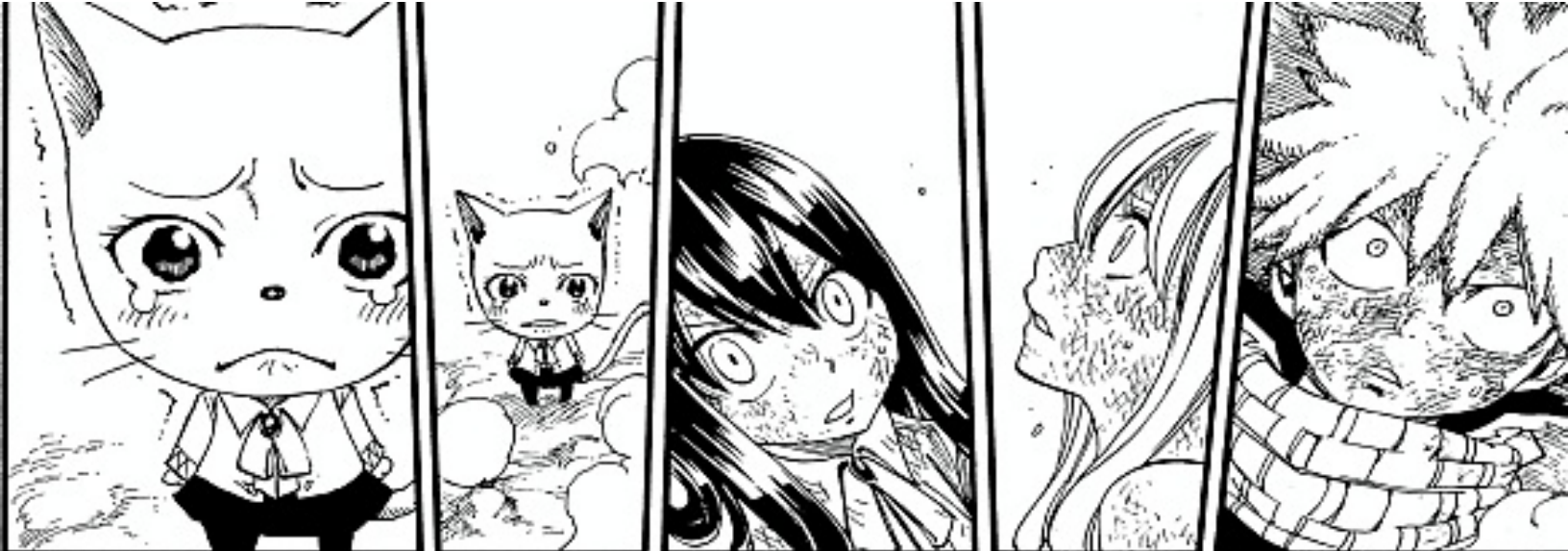




Dam-
mmmmmmmm
!!!!

We aren't
gonna let
a creep
like you
get the
best of
us!!!





FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 363: Stories that Demons Read



BLUE PEGASUS	
Name: Nichiya	Age: ?
Magic: Aera	
Likes: Ichiya	Dislikes: Stinky things



Remarks

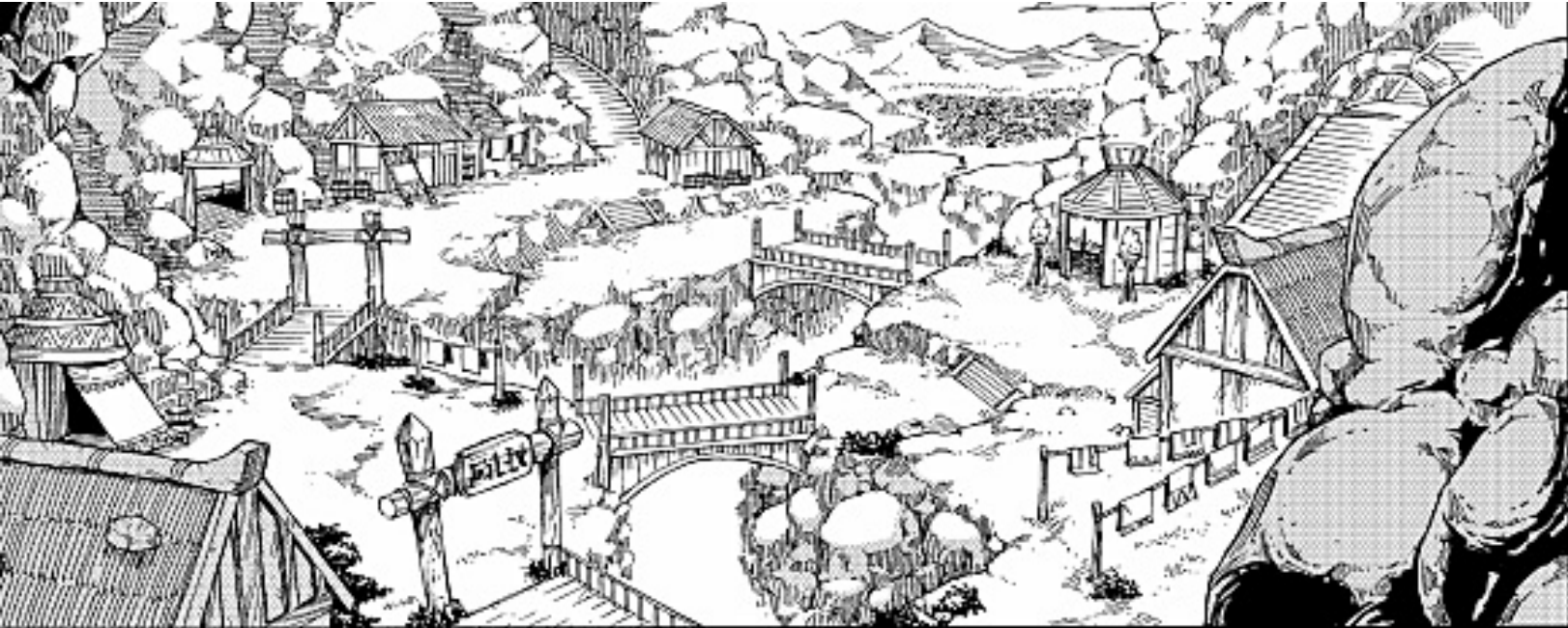
He used to be the Captain of the Royal Guard of the Kingdom of Extalia, the land of the Exceed (cats). Even after he arrived in this world, he remained captain of the guard for the group of Exceed, but when he learned how many beings out there were stronger than he was, he stepped down from the position. After that, he met Ichiya, and he left the Exceed's group to take a place with Blue Pegasus.

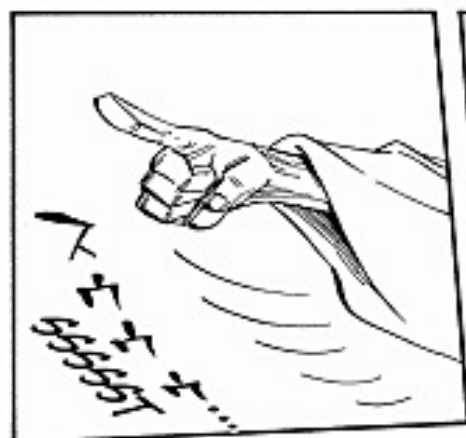
Before his appearance at the Grand Magic Games, he, Ichiya, and Master Bob were the only ones who knew he had joined.









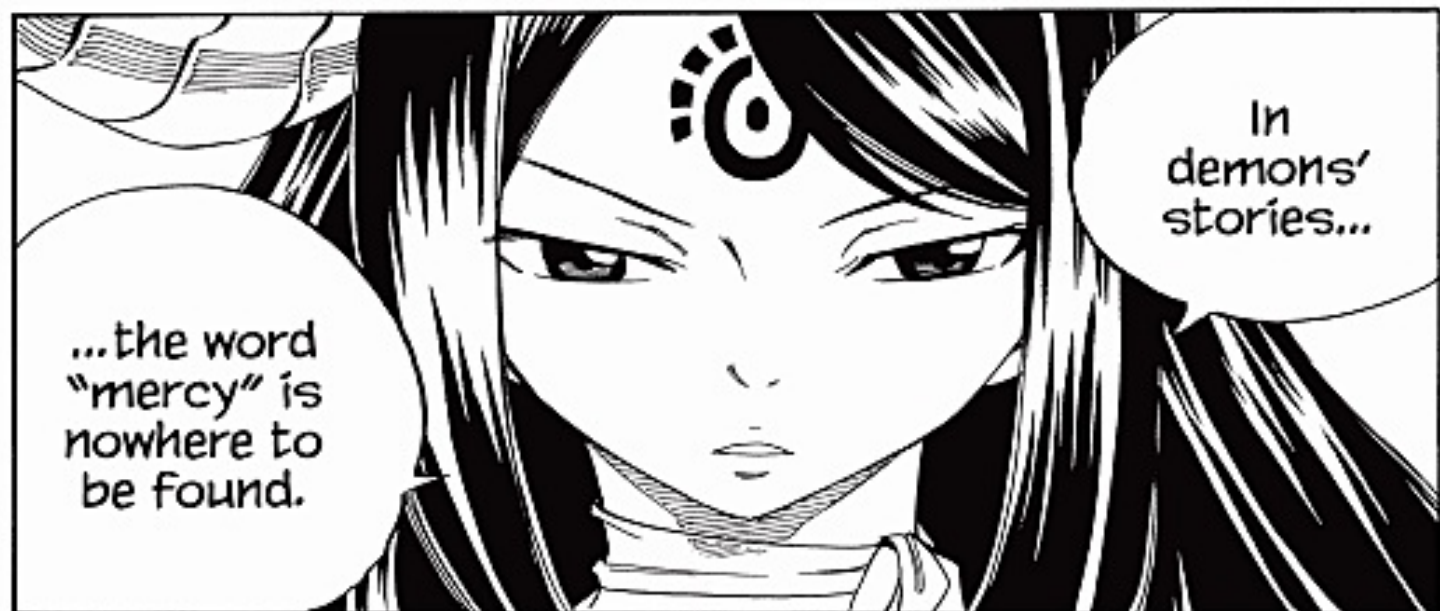
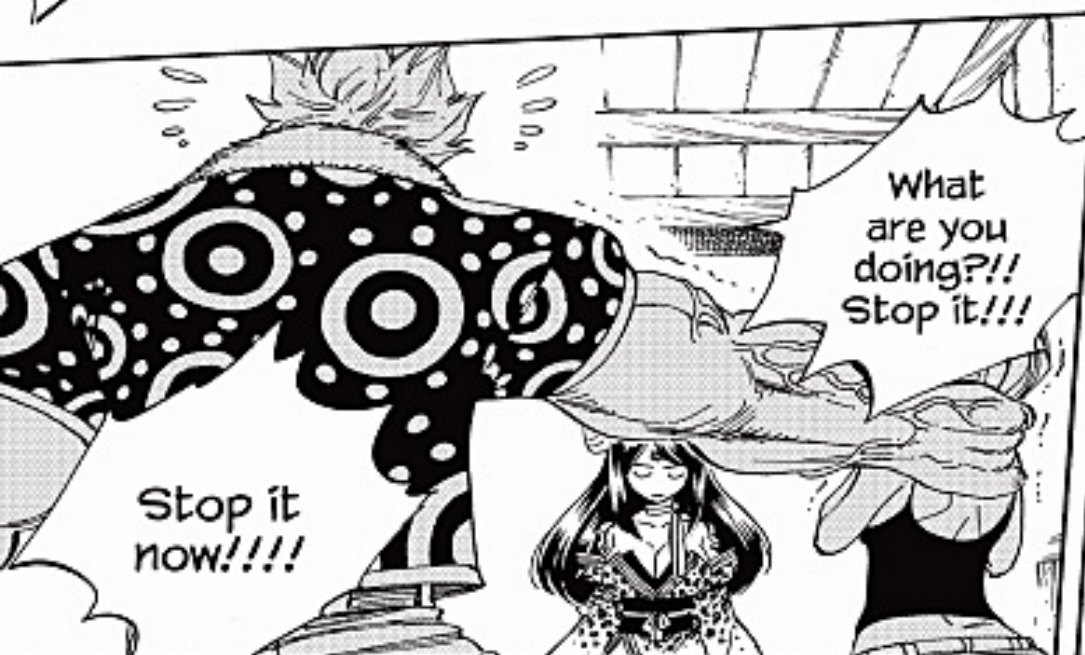
















Well...



Did you
manage
to get any
information
from
Michello?



Face...

White
Inheritance...

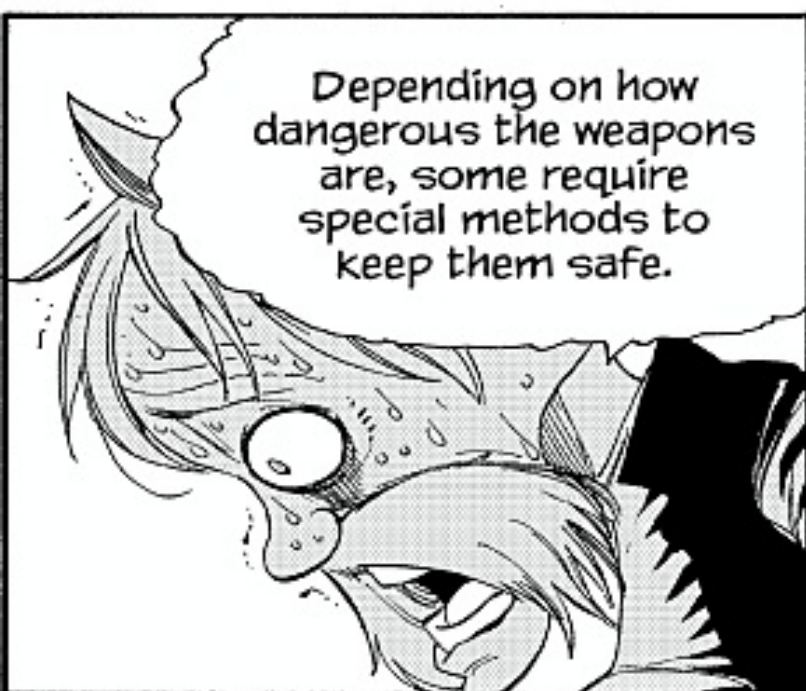
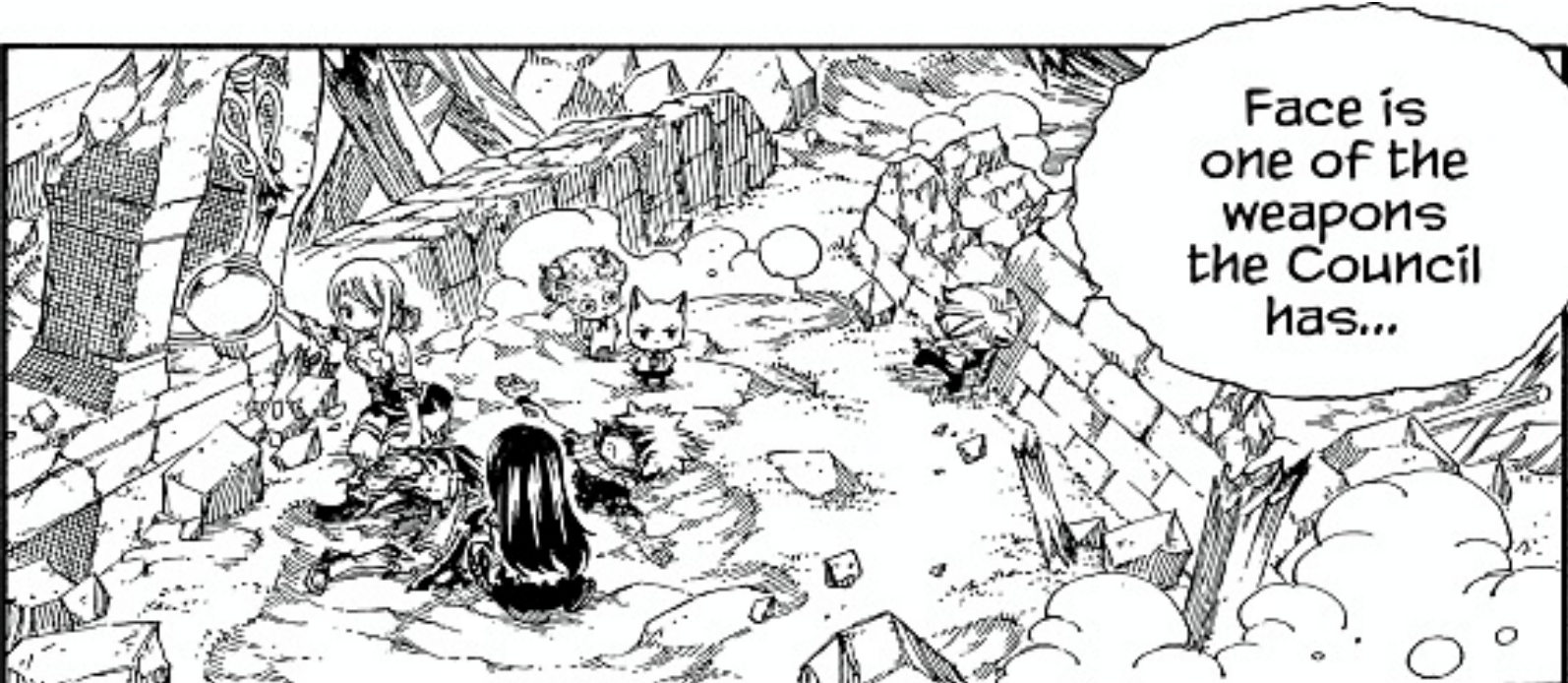


"Face"?



I know
nothing...

Really!
Nothing
at all...





To launch it, you need the approval of all nine Council members and codes from ten of the highest-level wizards in the bureaucracy.*

The final phase of the Etherion launch is complete!

For example, there's Etherion, a huge magic cannon that can target anything on the continent.

It has the power to wipe out an entire kingdom in an instant.

BOO OOO

* Seven years ago, it only took the agreement of five members of the council to fire it.



Taking Etherion out of the equation might be one of the enemy's objectives.



They can't use Etherion, huh?

In other words, now that all the Council members are dead...



I know you were sworn to secrecy!!! But we're in a crisis here!!!



What kind of weapon is Face?!



**It's
a magic
pulse
bomb.**

**A weapon
that can
eliminate all
the magic on
the continent.**



**Wiped
out
...?!**



**All the
magic
on the
continent...?**



**Wha
...?!!**



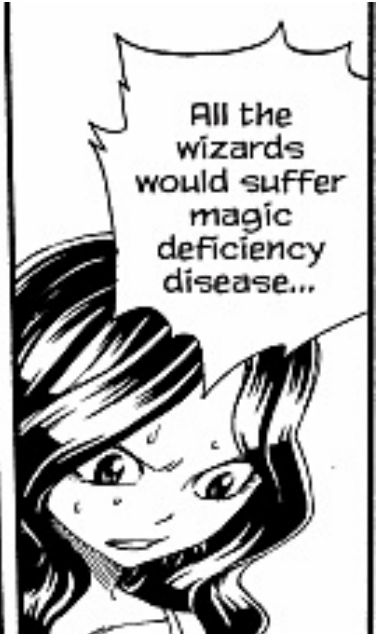
What kind of weapon is this supposed to be...?



A world where all of the wizards are stripped of their magic, barely clinging to life, while Tartaros can use their powers with impunity...



It's worse than that!!! We just found out that the members of Tartaros don't use magic!! They use curses!!!

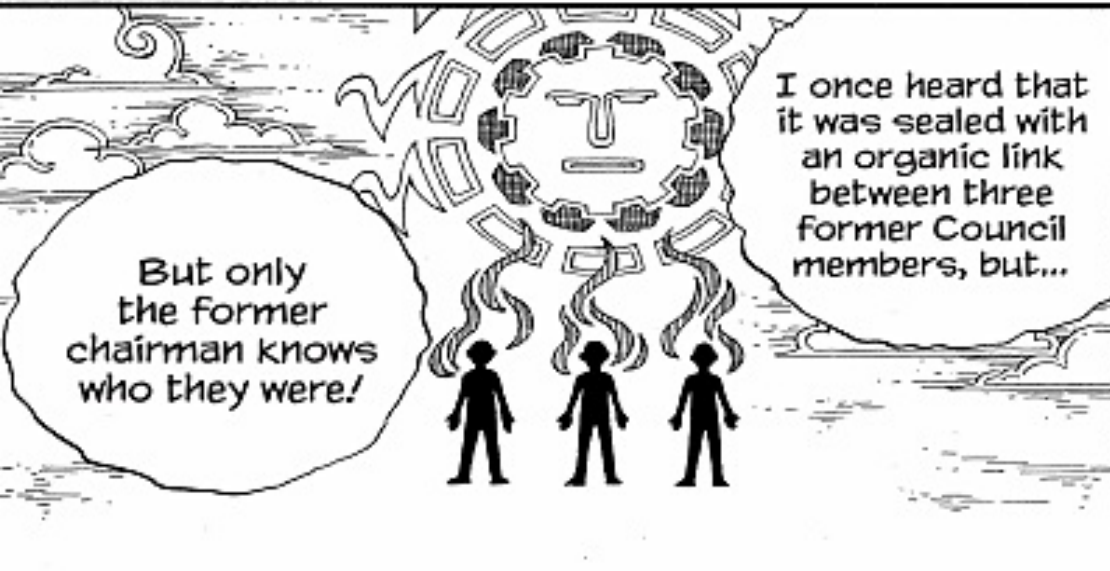


All the wizards would suffer magic deficiency disease...



We'll smash it to pieces before they can set it off!!!!

Where is this thing?!!!



But only the former chairman knows who they were!

I once heard that it was sealed with an organic link between three former Council members, but...



I... I don't know... Really...



That's why they're just killing off Council members without bothering to question them.



So the key to break the seal would be the lives of those three wizards...



Organic Link Magic...



Wouldn't that suggest that Tartaros already knows where Face is hidden?

But...looking at it from another angle, it means they don't *need* to ask them any questions.



P- Probably...

So the former chairman knows who those former Council members are?!

We have to find those three and protect them!! There's no time to lose!!!



IF THEY MANAGE TO OFF THOSE THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS, FACE WILL FALL RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS, OLD MAN!!





The two
most reliable
members we
have!!!

Chapter 364:

Tartaros Arc, Part 1: Immorality and Sinners





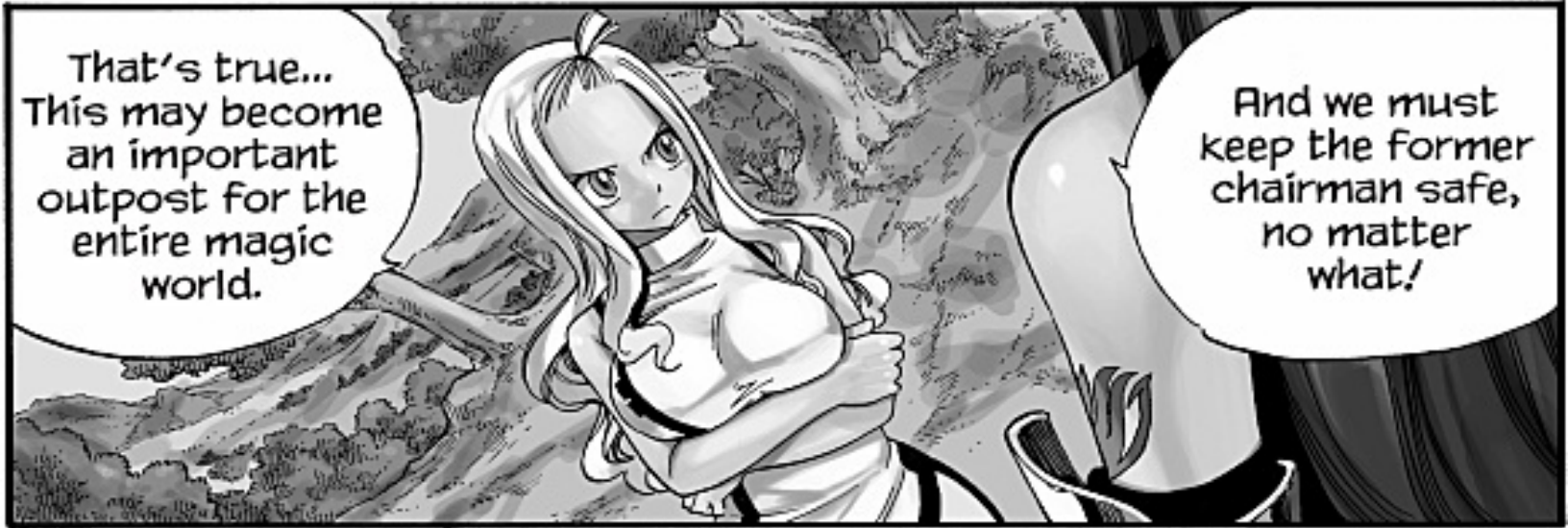
Are you sure
you want to be
on *this* detail,
protecting
the former
chairman?

Erza...
they're probably
targeting Jellal
too.



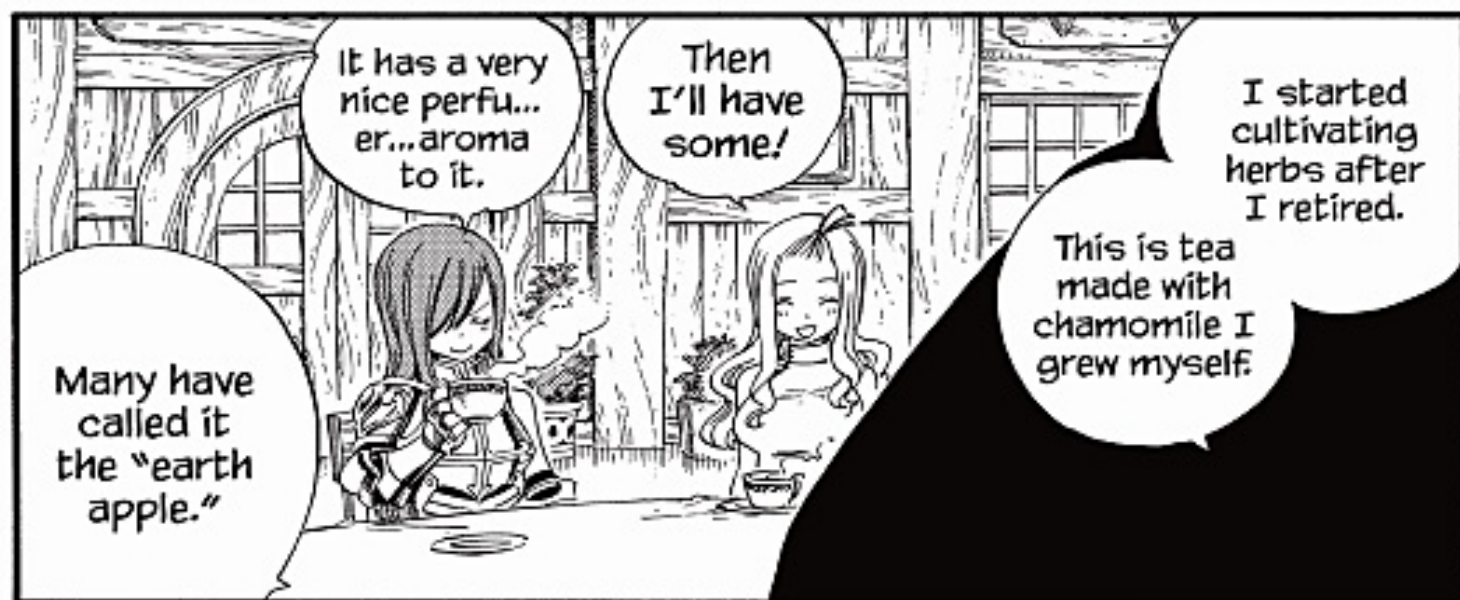
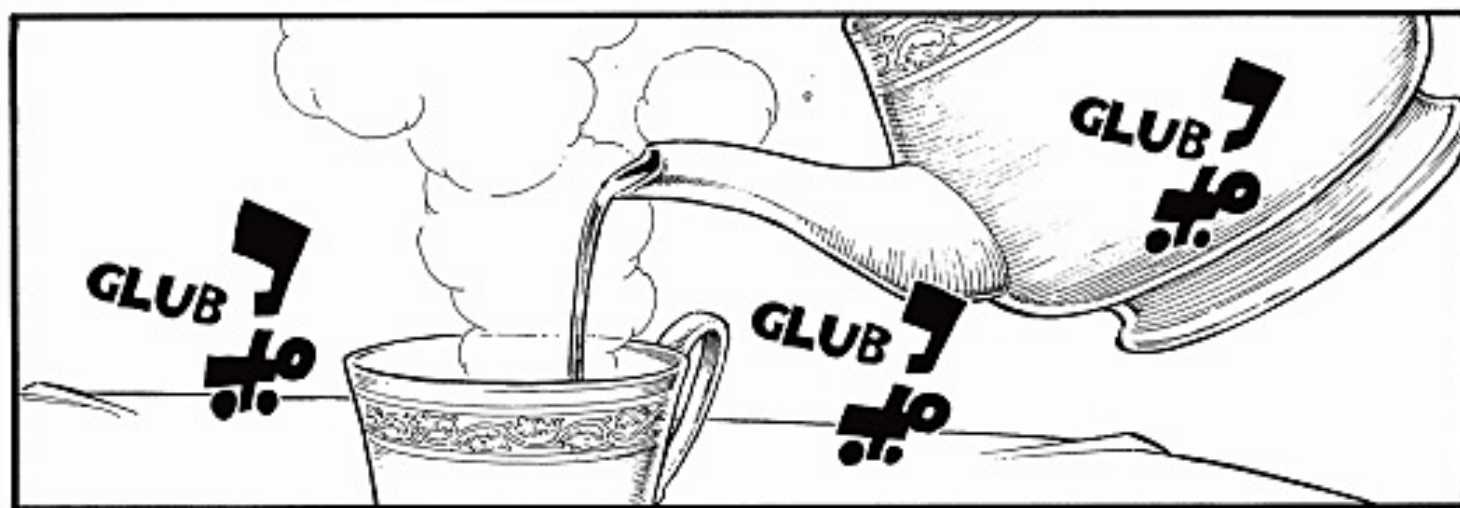
Besides, he
can protect
himself
without my
assistance.

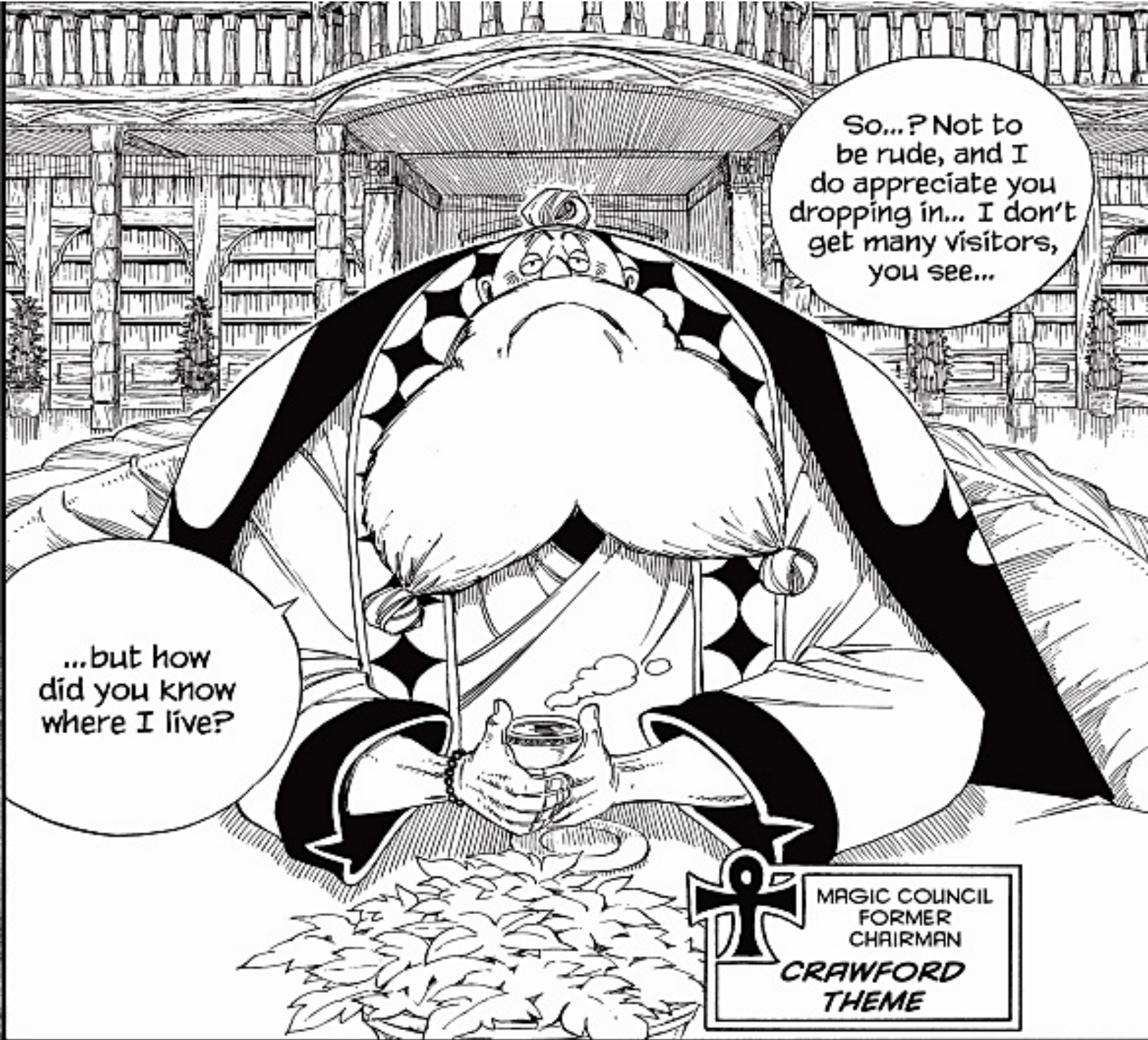
I do not
know Jellal's
location.



That's true...
This may become
an important
outpost for the
entire magic
world.

And we must
keep the former
chairman safe,
no matter
what!





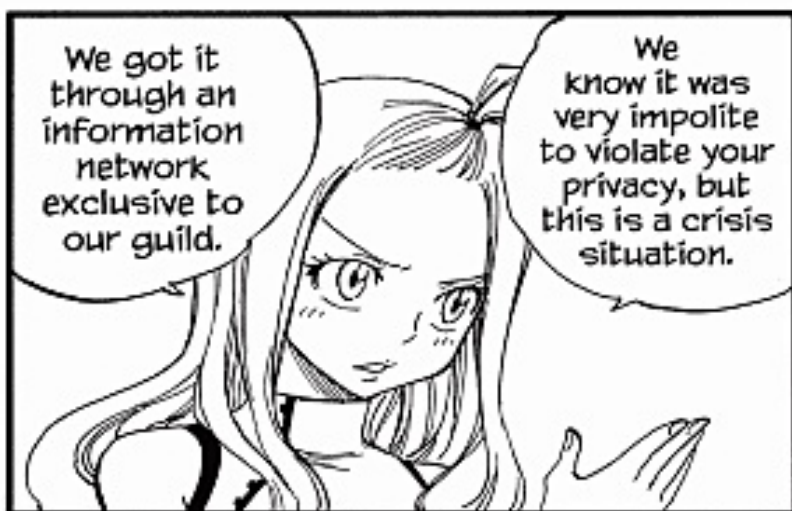
So...? Not to be rude, and I do appreciate you dropping in... I don't get many visitors, you see...

...but how did you know where I live?

MAGIC COUNCIL
FORMER
CHAIRMAN
**CRAWFORD
THEME**



Then I must compliment your network, as my address should be top secret.



We got it through an information network exclusive to our guild.

We know it was very impolite to violate your privacy, but this is a crisis situation.



I do recall you, however.



We beg your forgiveness.

Yes, well...
I'm retired,
so I won't
be punishing
anyone.
HA HA HA!



"I'm
Erza!!!
See?!!!"

"Will the
defendant,
Erza Scarlet,
please... take
the stand."



"M-My
humblest
apologies..."

"T-Take
them
both
to the
lockup!"

"The
perpetrator
is some
woman
warrior in
armor..."

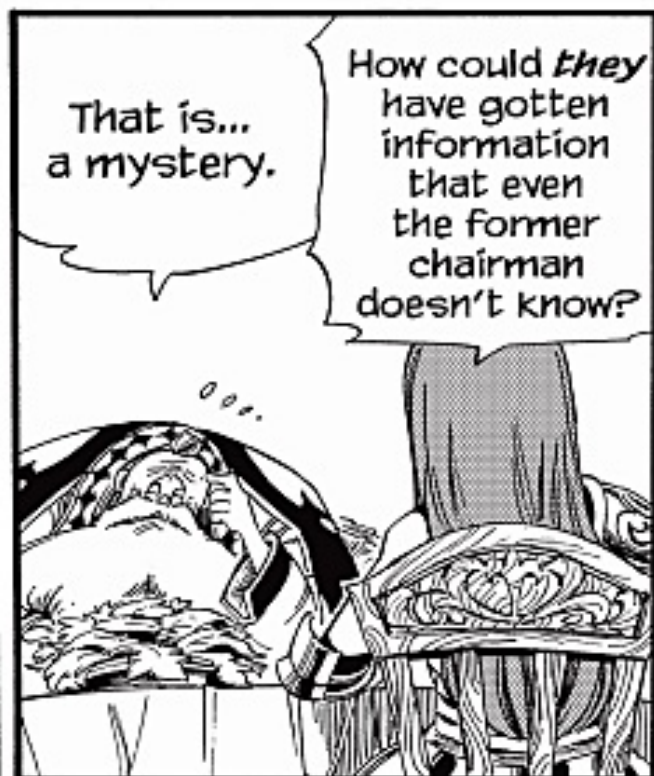
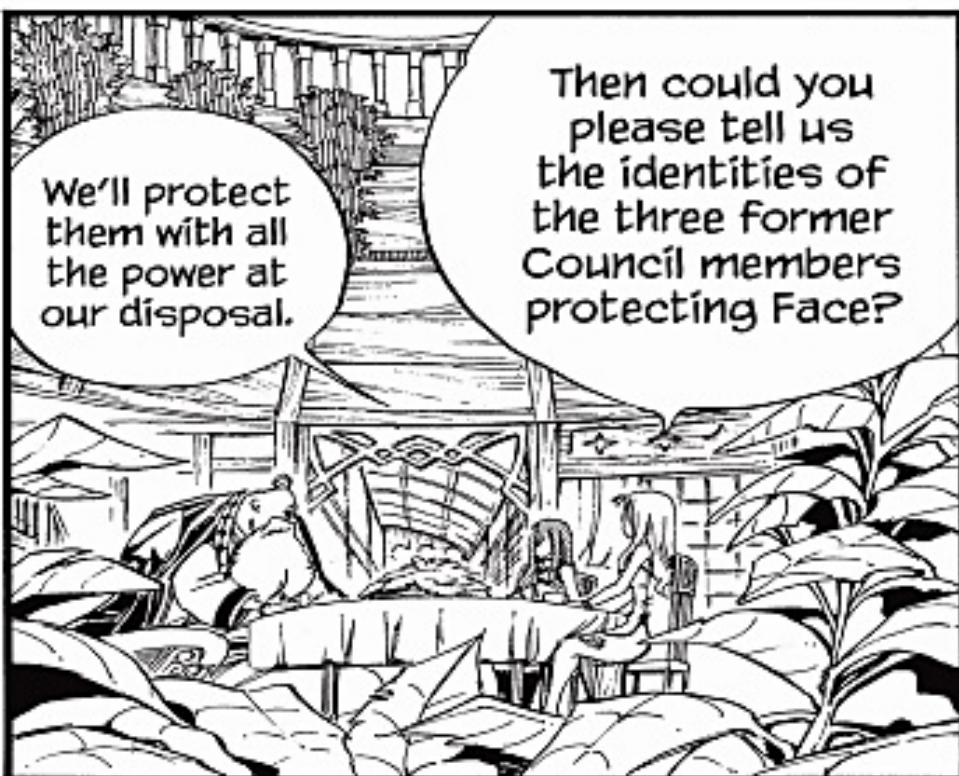
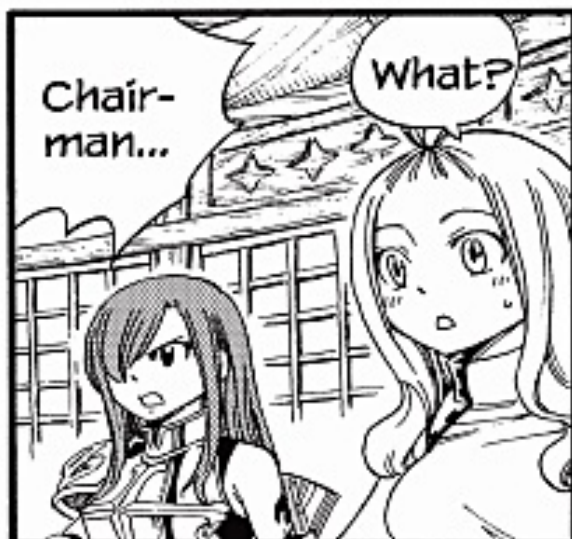
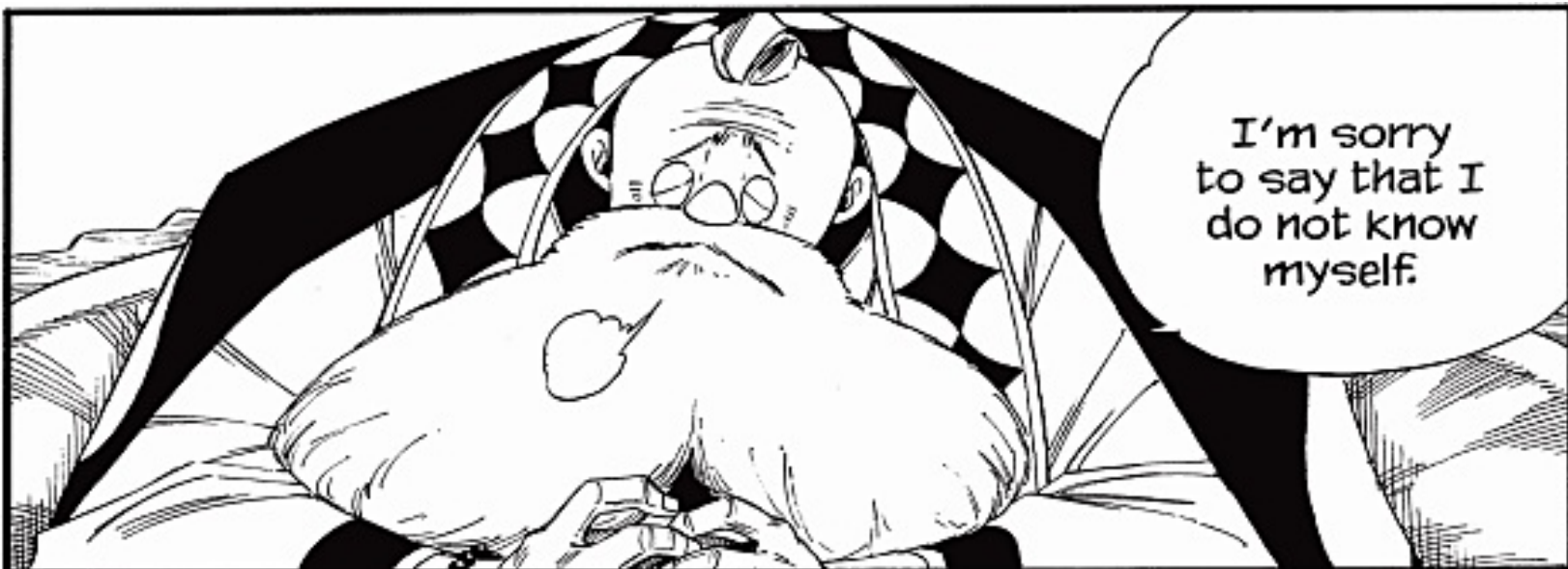


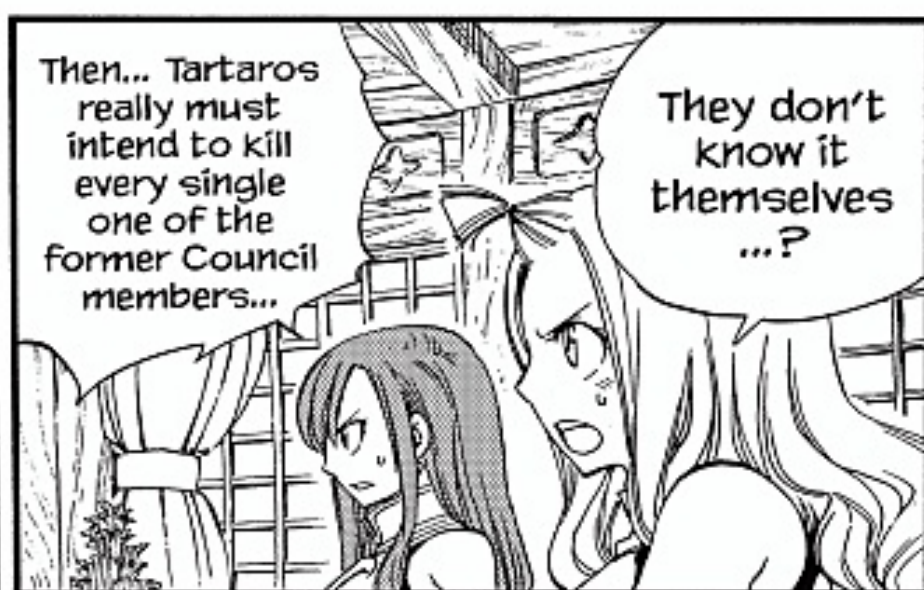
I hear you've
been in a state
similar to frozen
sleep for the
seven years since
then.

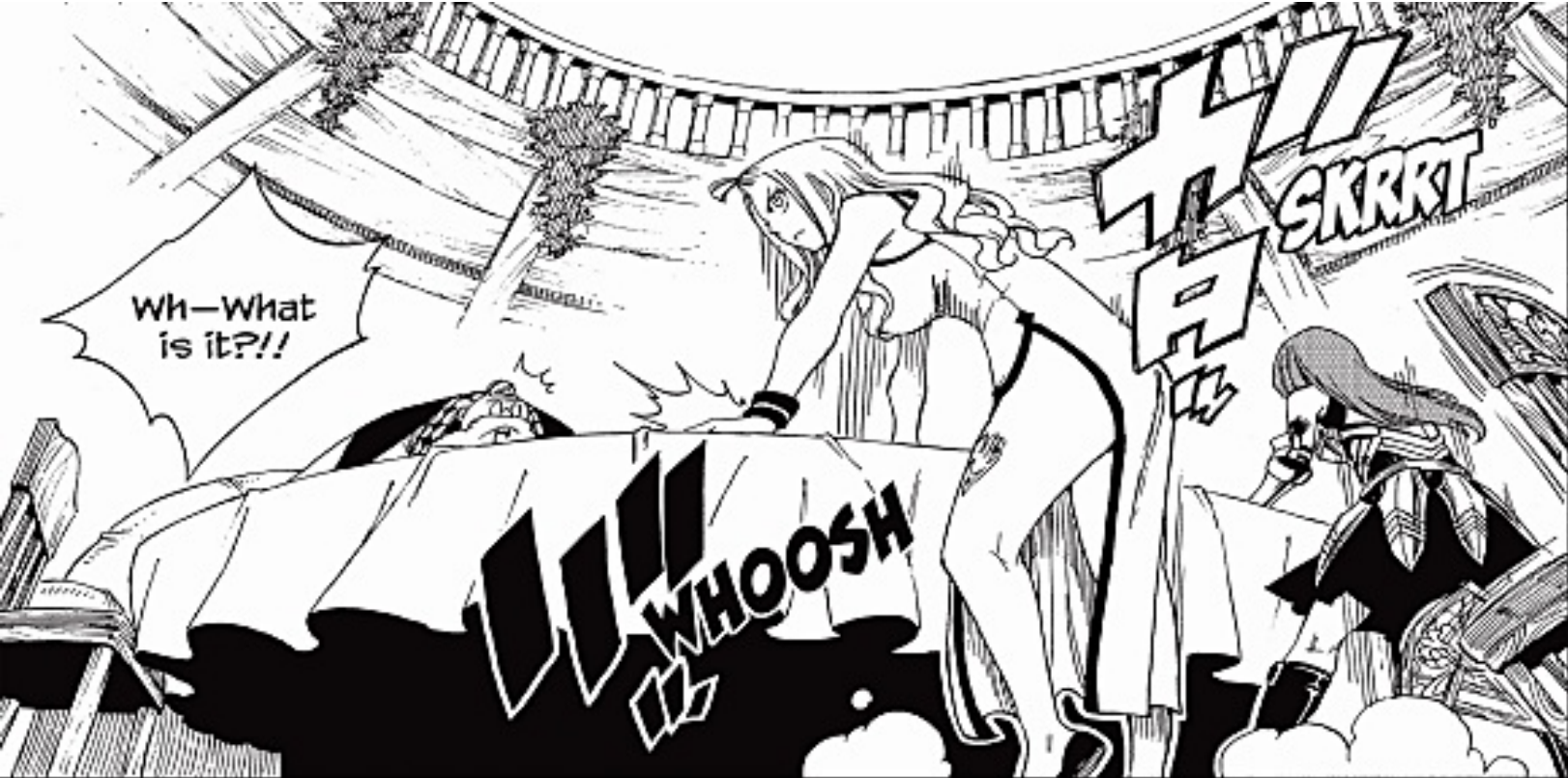
It's a fond
memory
for me.

I can't
tell you how
embarrassed
I am at
that.



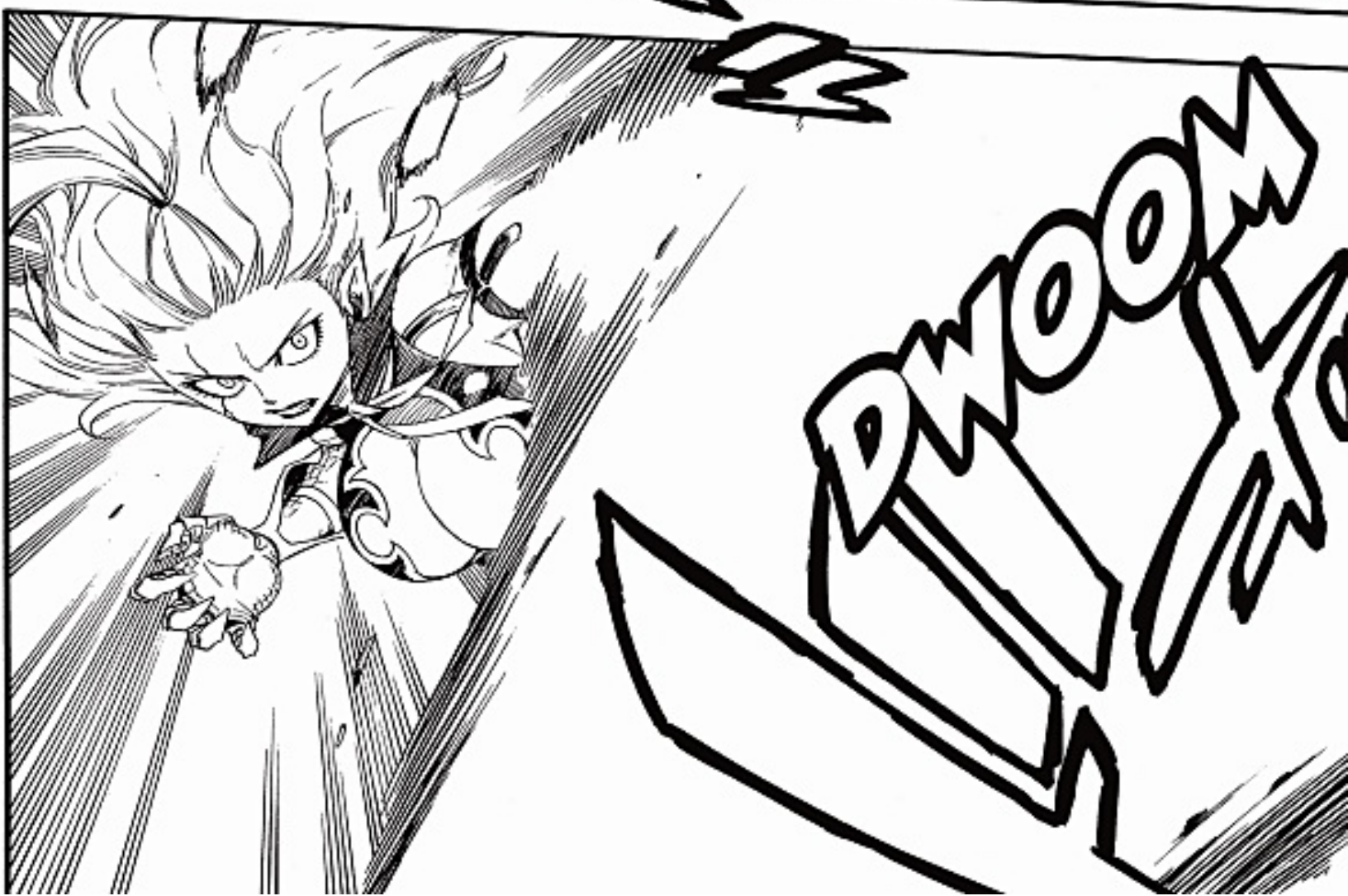
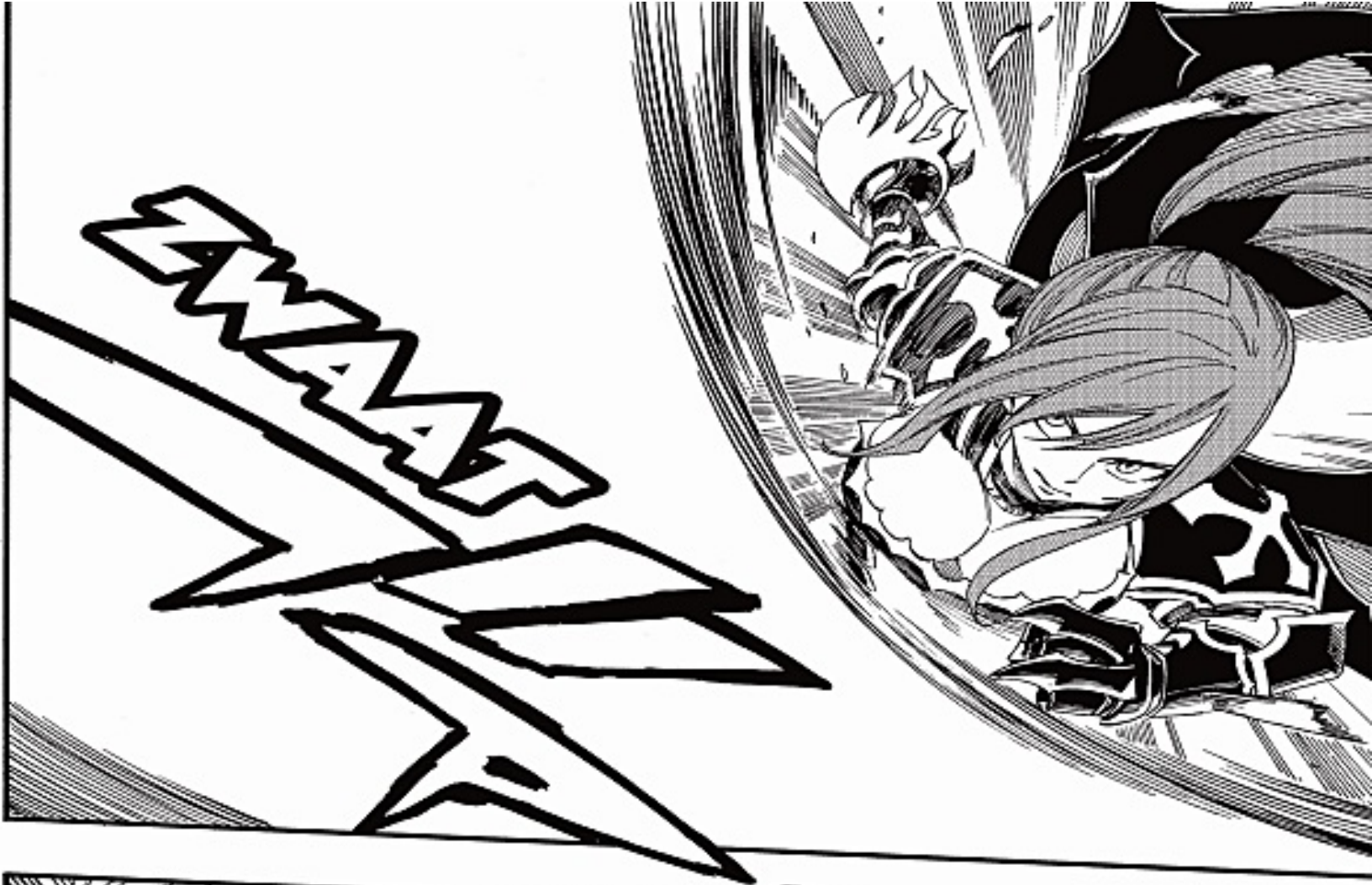








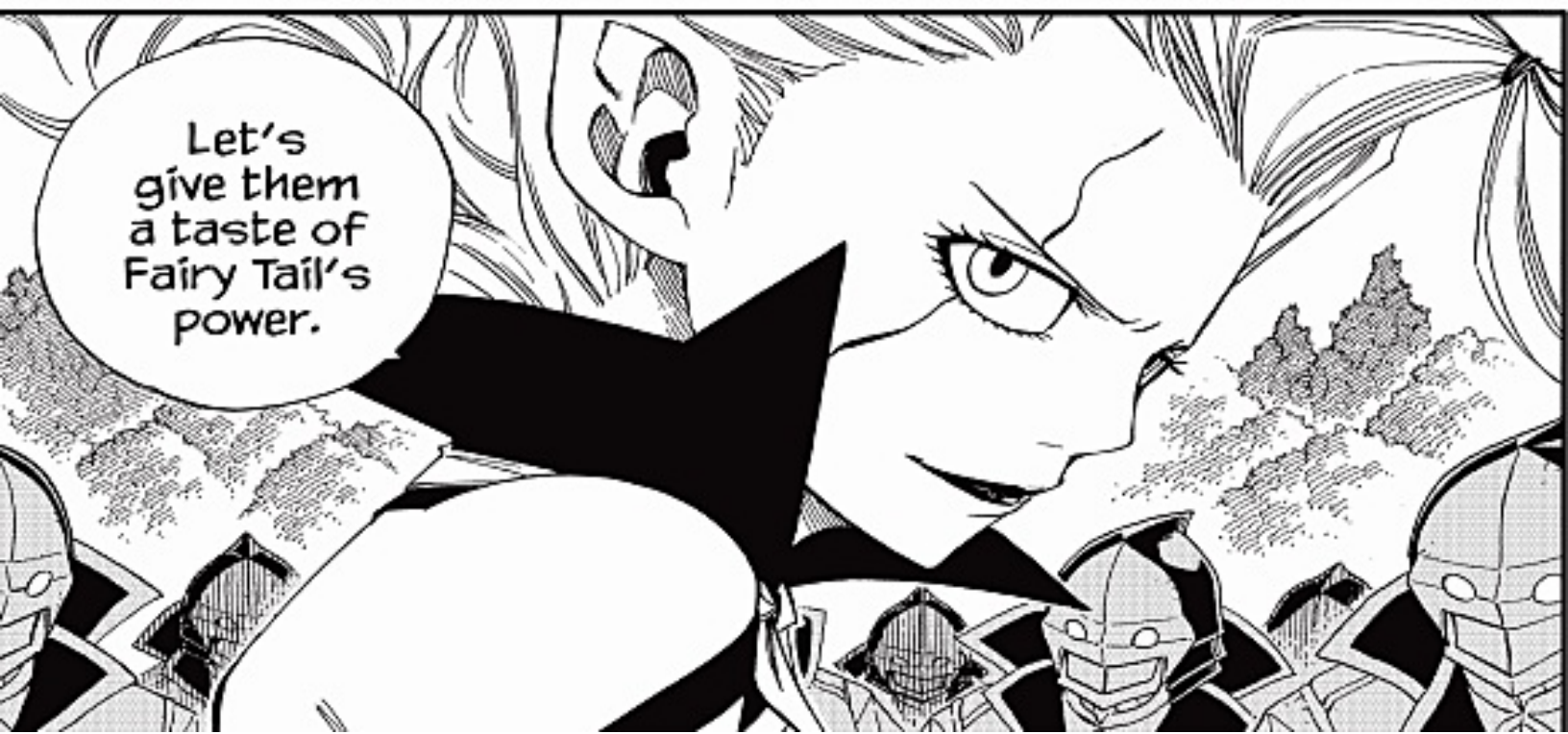
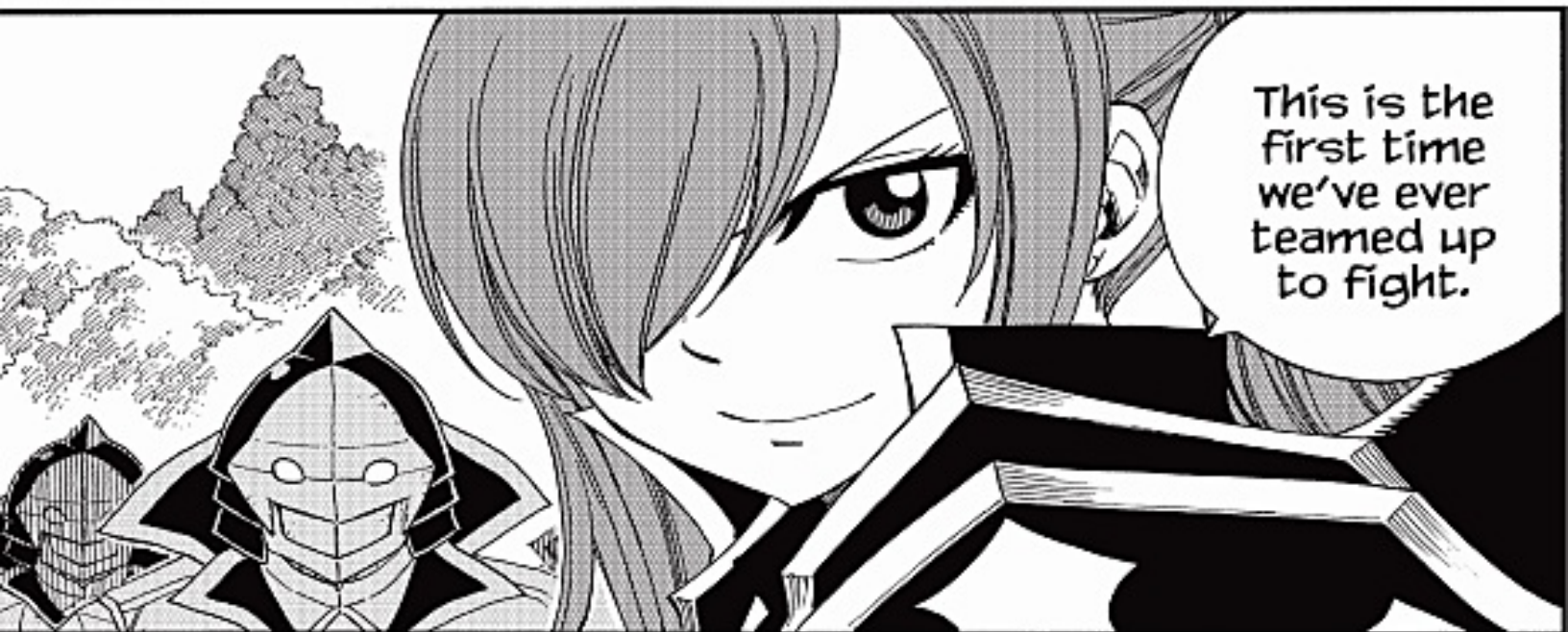


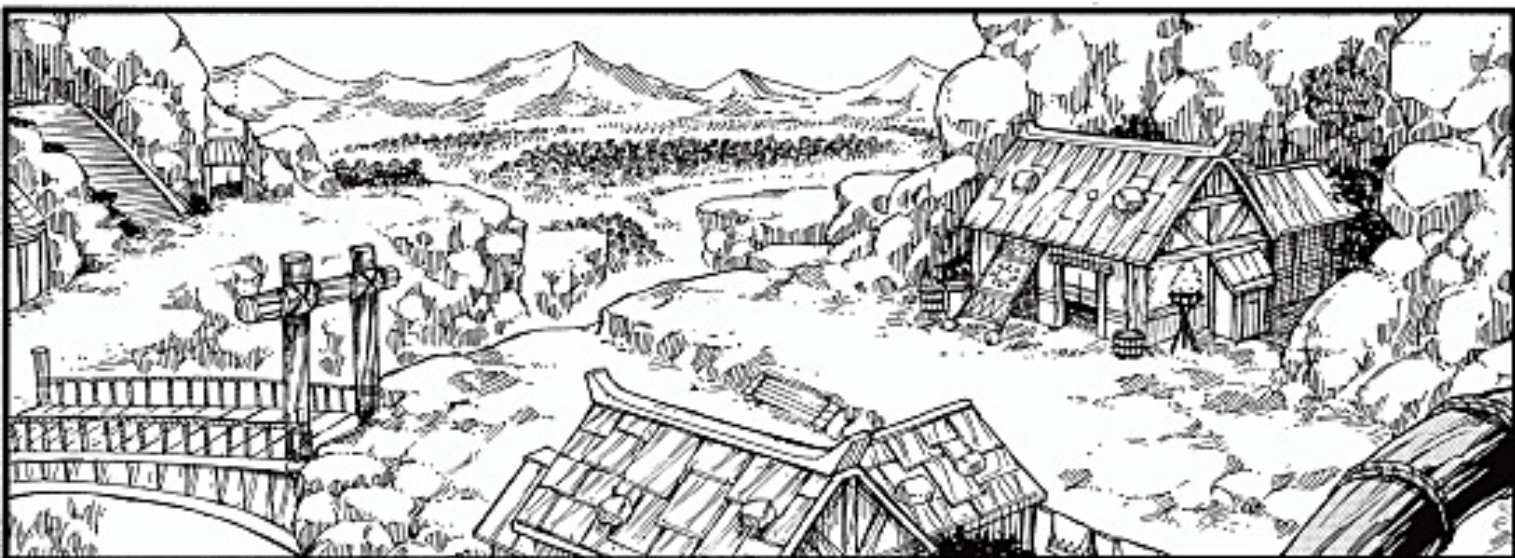


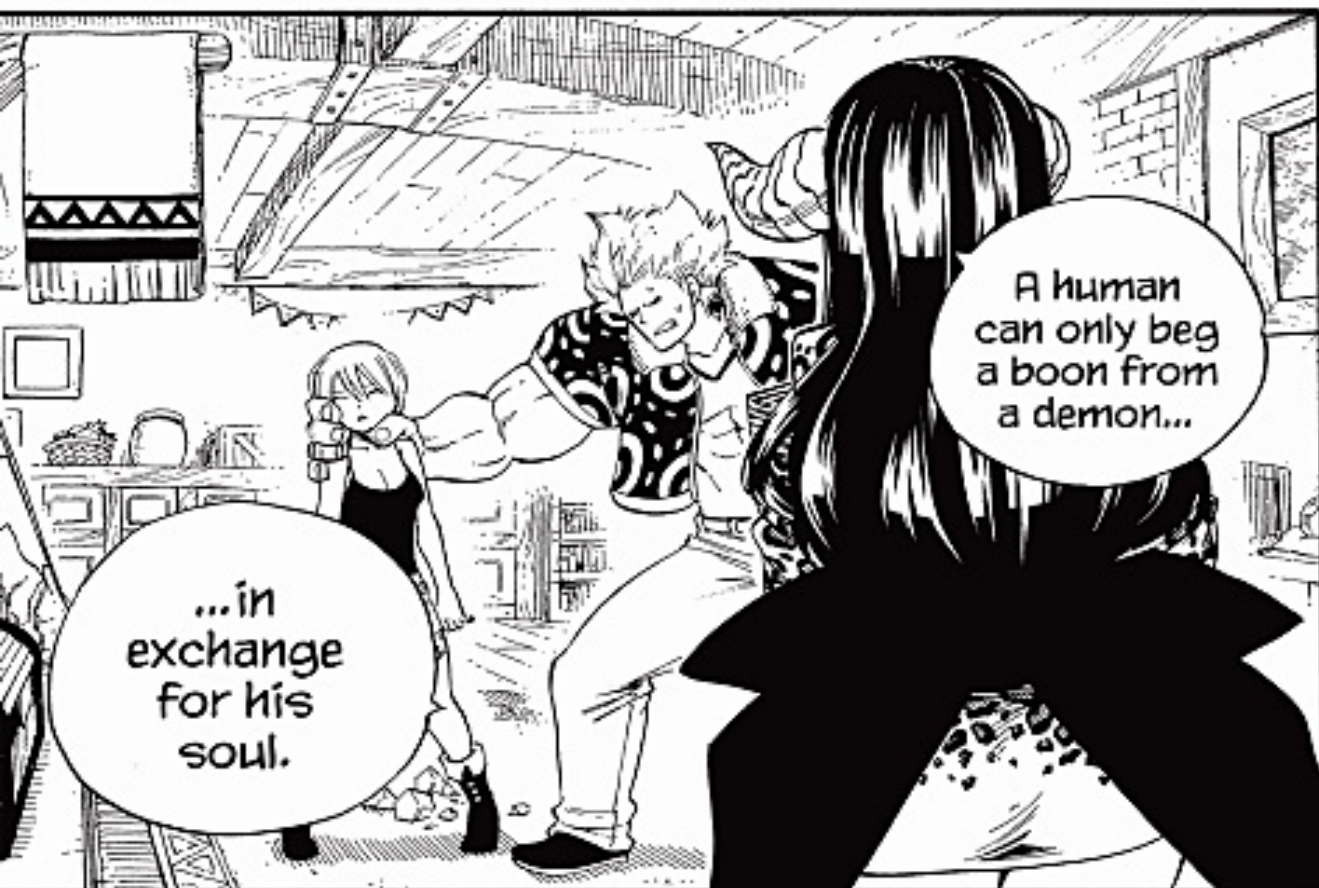


You
won't lay a
finger on the
chairman!







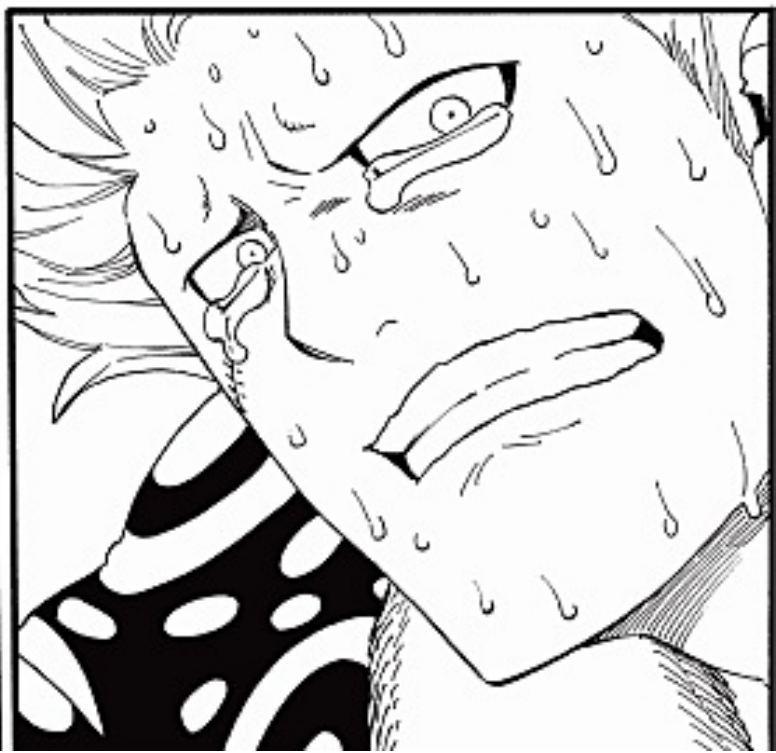


A human
can only beg
a boon from
a demon...

Begging?

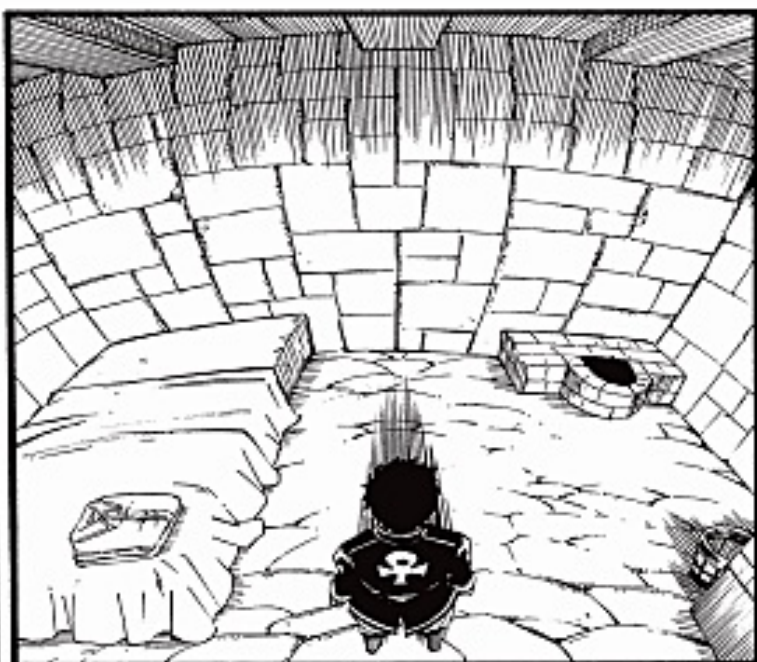
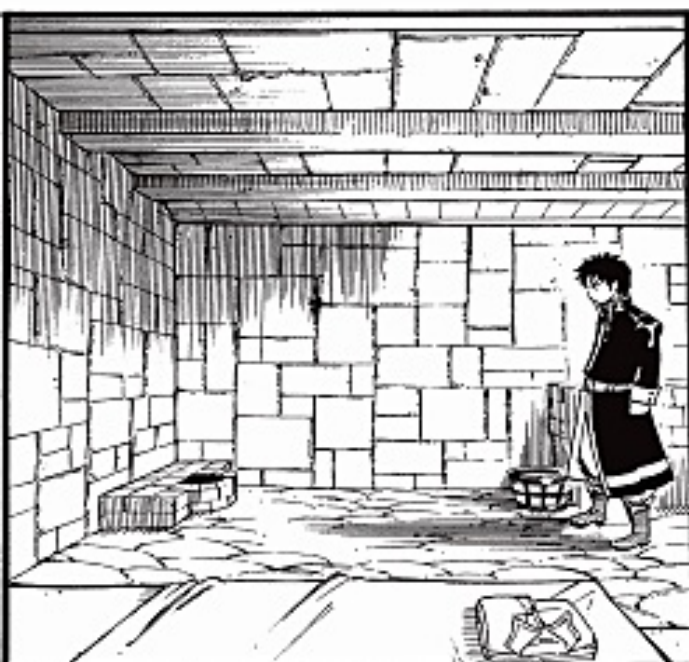


Will you sell
me your
soul?





The ruins
of the
Magic
Council,
Era.



A weapon
that makes
it so no
wizard on
the continent
can use
magic.



It's a
magic
pulse
bomb.

Tartaros
is after
the weapon
called Face.



*I will
crush
Tartaros!*

*There's
no
turning
back
now...*



Nothin' like
the taste of
fresh air!

Pheww
!!



Right,
guys?



It seems
our love was
received... by
someone.

Freedom
sure is
great!

Those
words...are
too clichéd.



A close-up of Cobra, a man with long white hair and a black mask covering his eyes and nose. He has a slight, menacing smile and is wearing a dark, fur-collared coat.

I never
imagined
you could
possess such
negotiating
skill.

I
commend
you,
Cobra!

A close-up of a hand holding a small, ornate dagger with a cross-shaped guard. The hand is wearing a dark sleeve with white stripes.

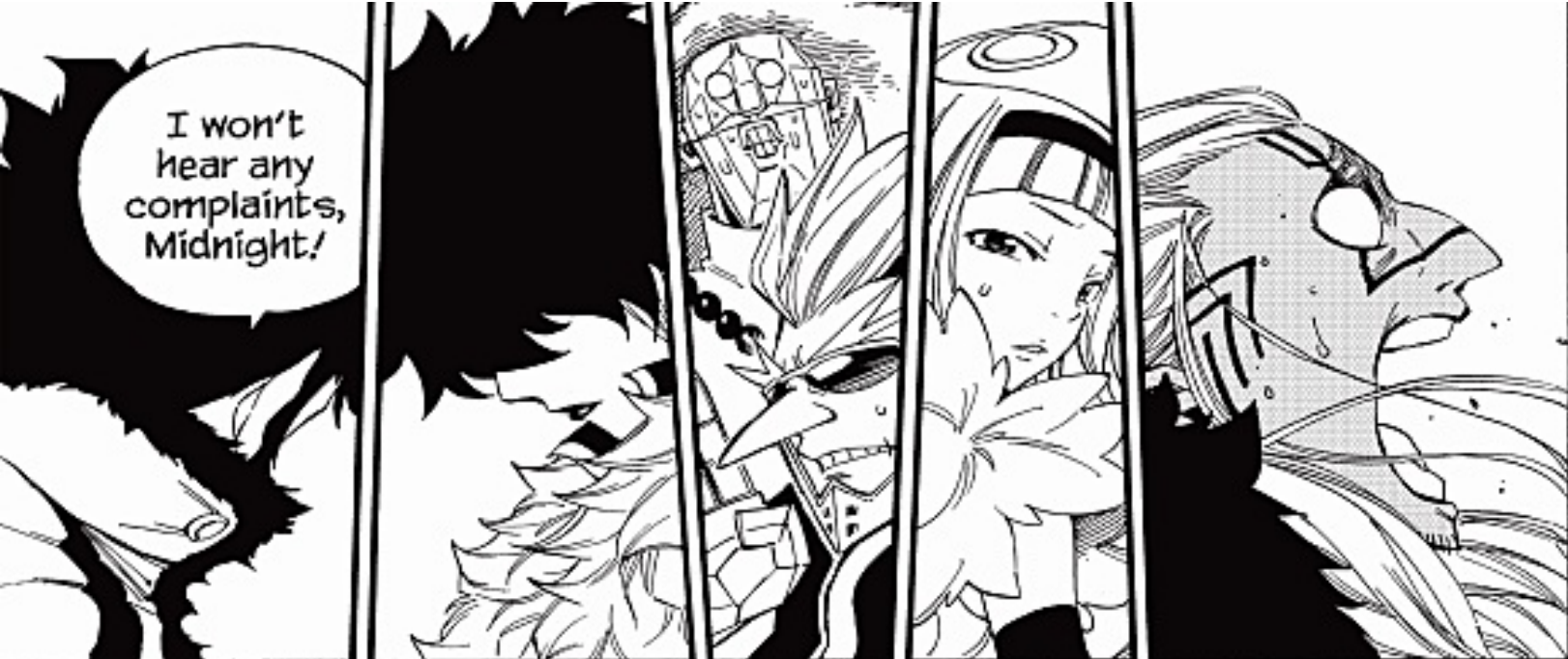
And with
this, the
Oración
Seis...

Two characters are in a cave-like setting. On the left, a character with long dark hair and a headband looks on. On the right, a character with spiky black hair and a white shirt with a cross emblem looks towards the left.

Heh
heh...

A large, stylized 'FLASH' sound effect is written across the center of the panel. In the background, a character with long dark hair and a headband is shown in a dynamic pose, possibly attacking. In the foreground, a character with long blonde hair is being thrown or falling through the air, with motion lines around them.

...is
rebor-









...Jellal.

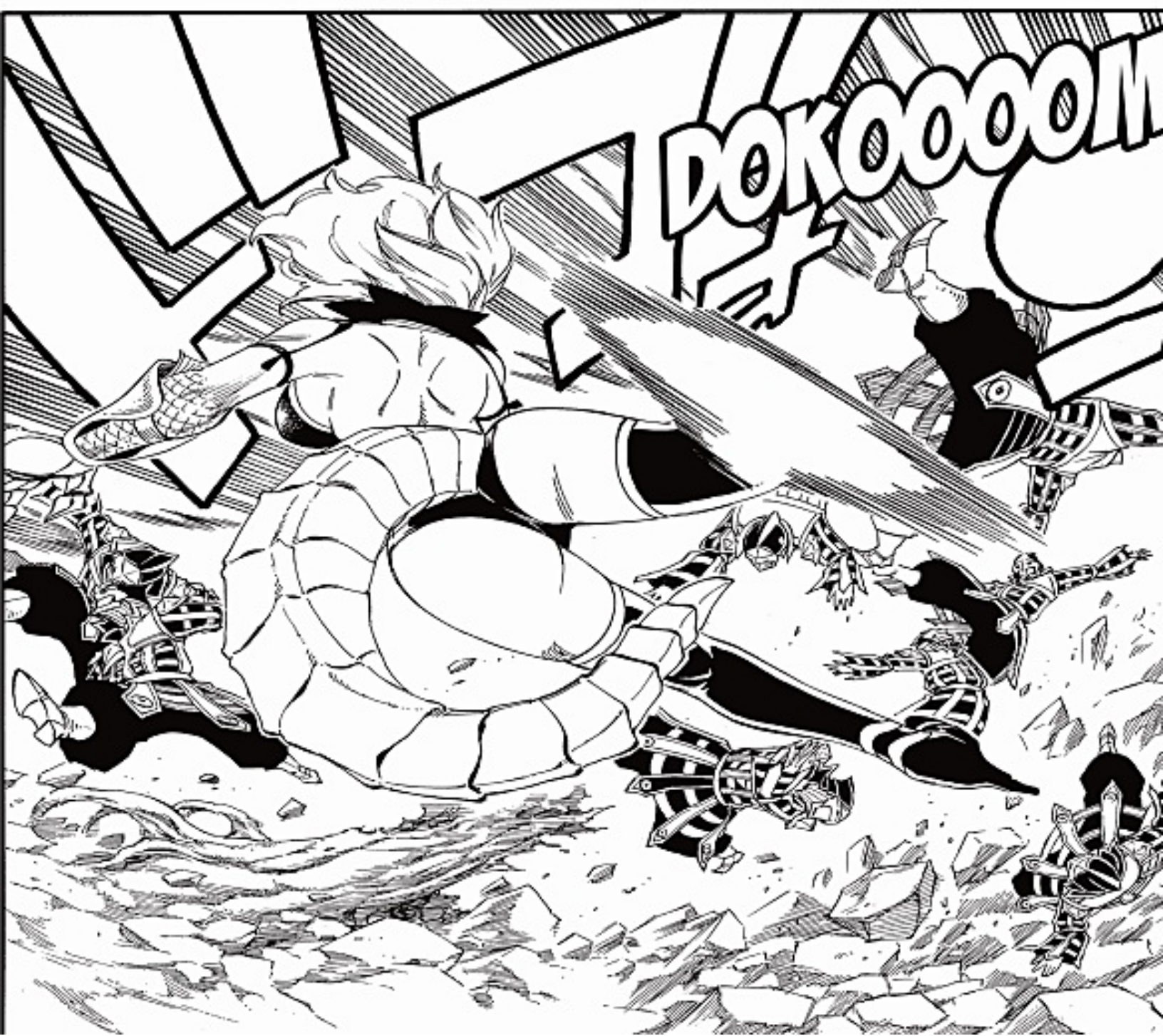
You've
got the
Seis...



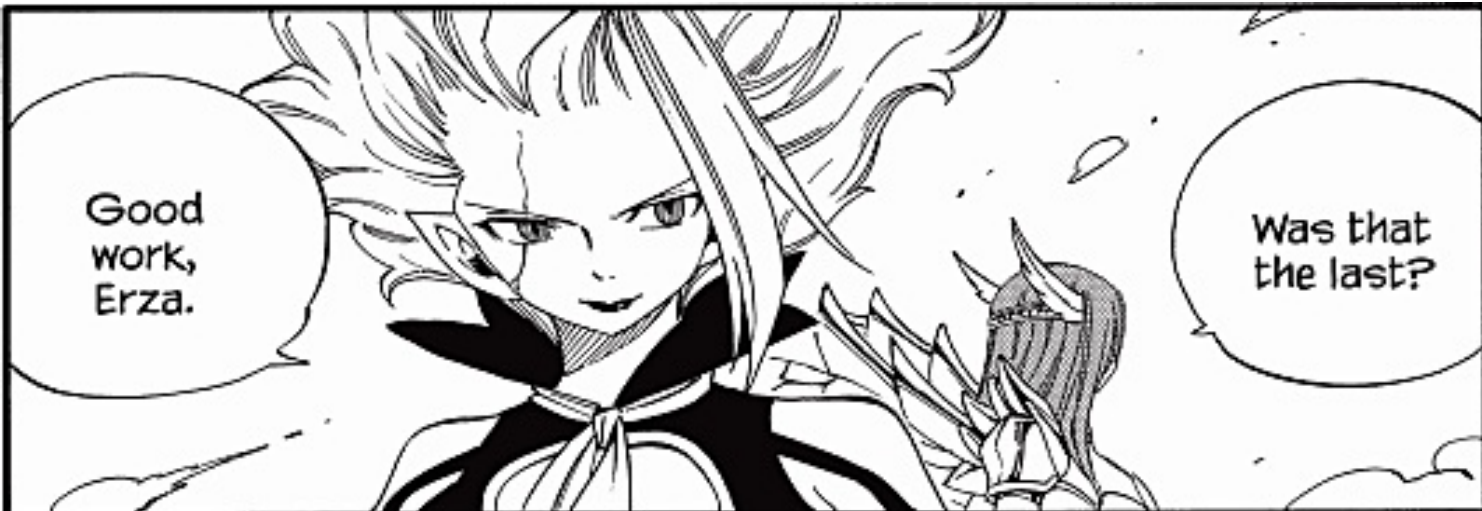
Leave
them to
me.

With this,
we'll be
even.



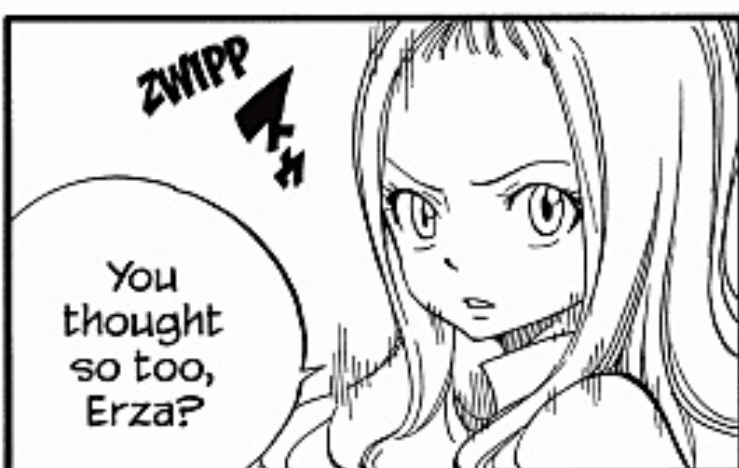






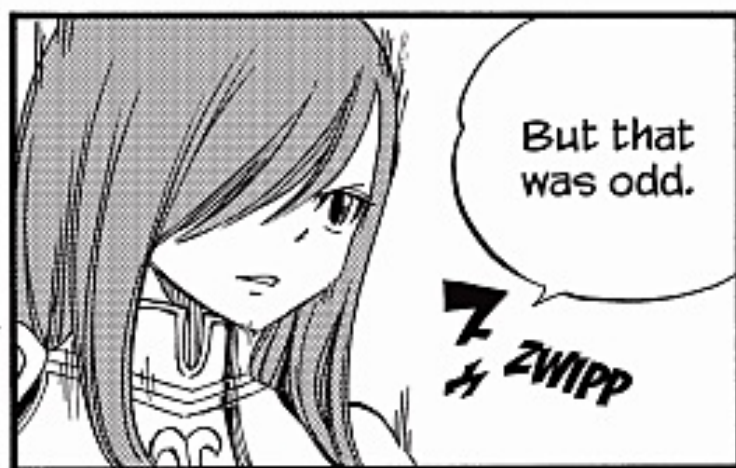
Good
work,
Erza.

Was that
the last?



ZWIPP
Z

You
thought
so too,
Erza?



But that
was odd.

Z
Z
ZWIPP



However, those
soldiers were
far too easily
beaten. They
appeared to be
no more powerful
than ordinary
soldiers.

The former
chairman
should be
considered a
high-priority
target.

Nobody... not even the
present Magic Council,
knows where the old
members live! And about
Face too!



Dammit!!
Why didn't
I think of it
sooner?!!



What's
wrong,
Natsu?!!



So why
does
Tartaros
?!!



I...

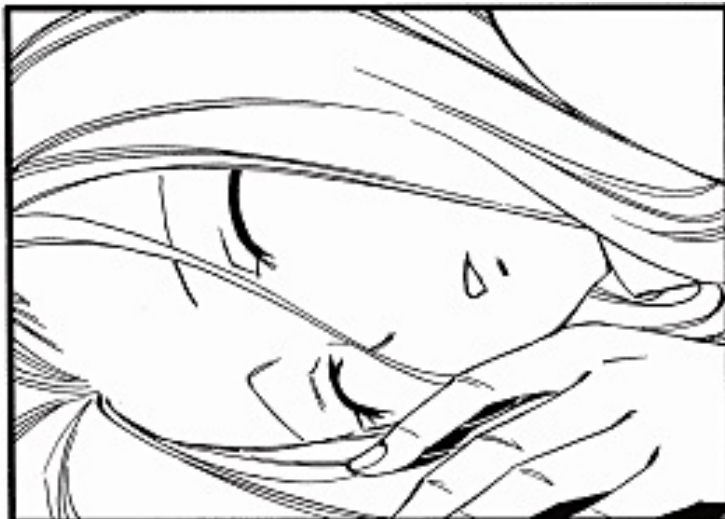
WOBBLE

What is it,
Mira?



Erza...





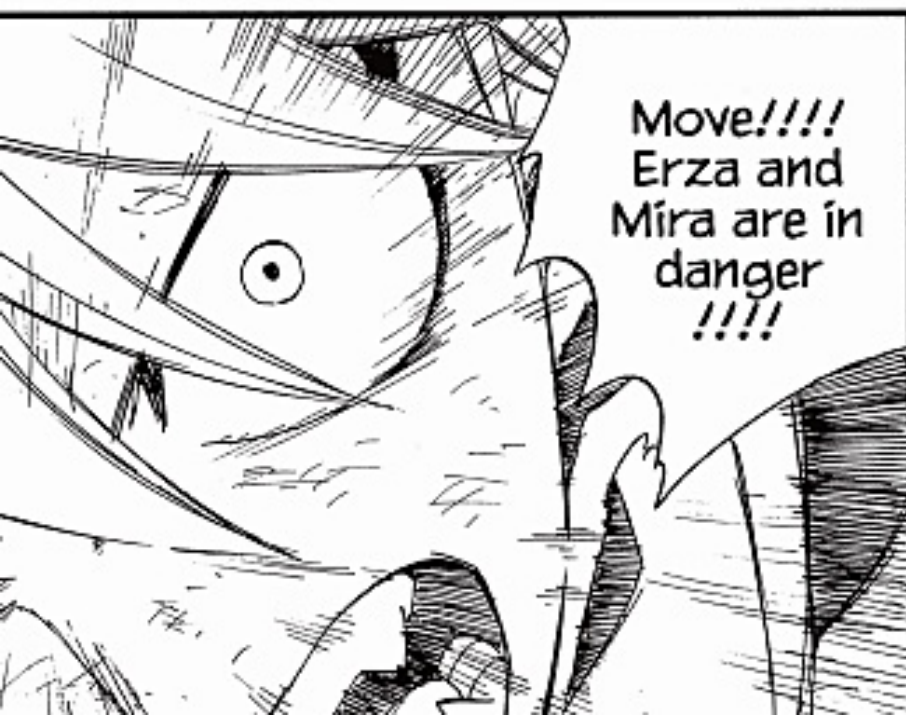
I don't
know,
but...

...to have all
the info on
the Council,
it's gotta be
somebody
high up...!!!



Some Council
member musta
leaked it to
Tartaros!!!

Who?



Move!!!!
Erza and
Mira are in
danger
!!!!



I don't
wanna
think it's
him, but...



PLEASE MAKE A
SWIFT RETURN
TO THE GUILD,
IF YOU WOULD.

AN ADMIRABLE
FEAT INDEED.
ONE BEFITTING
A FORMER
CHAIRMAN.





FAIRY TWIL



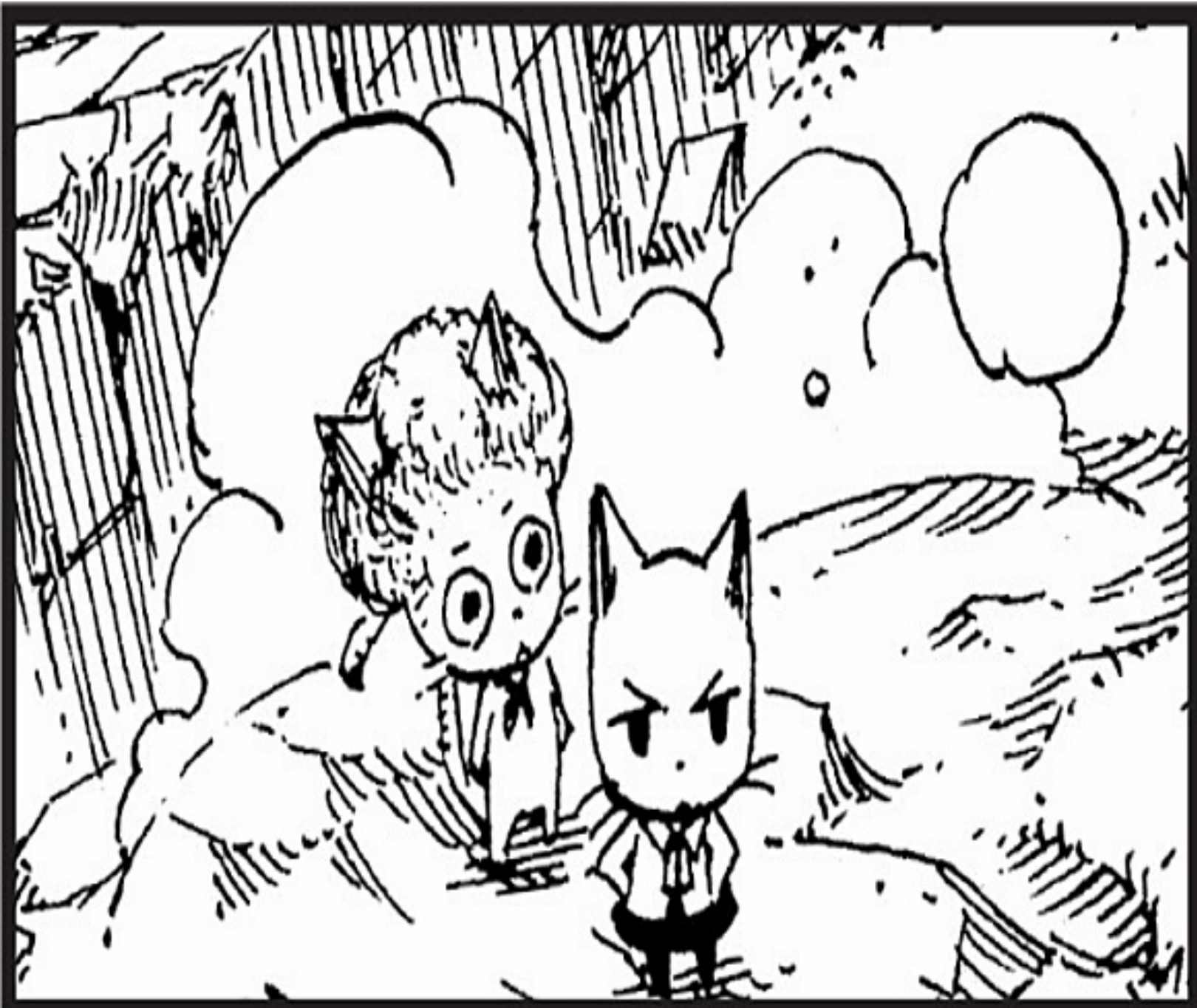


365 FAIRY IN THE JAIL

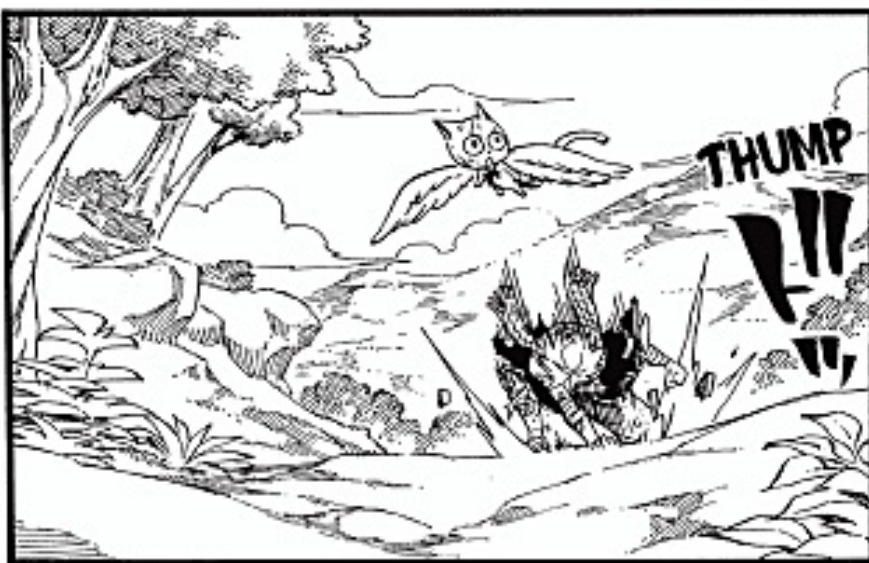


HIRO MASHIMA

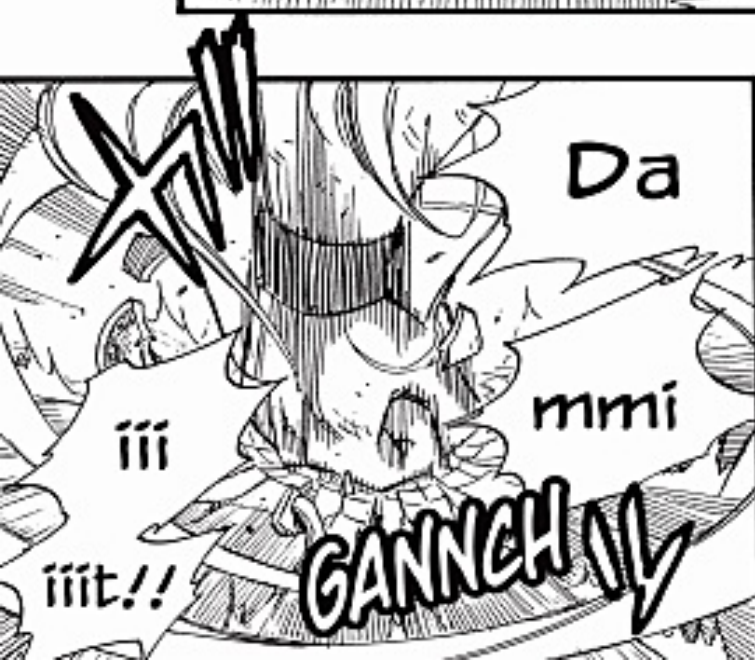
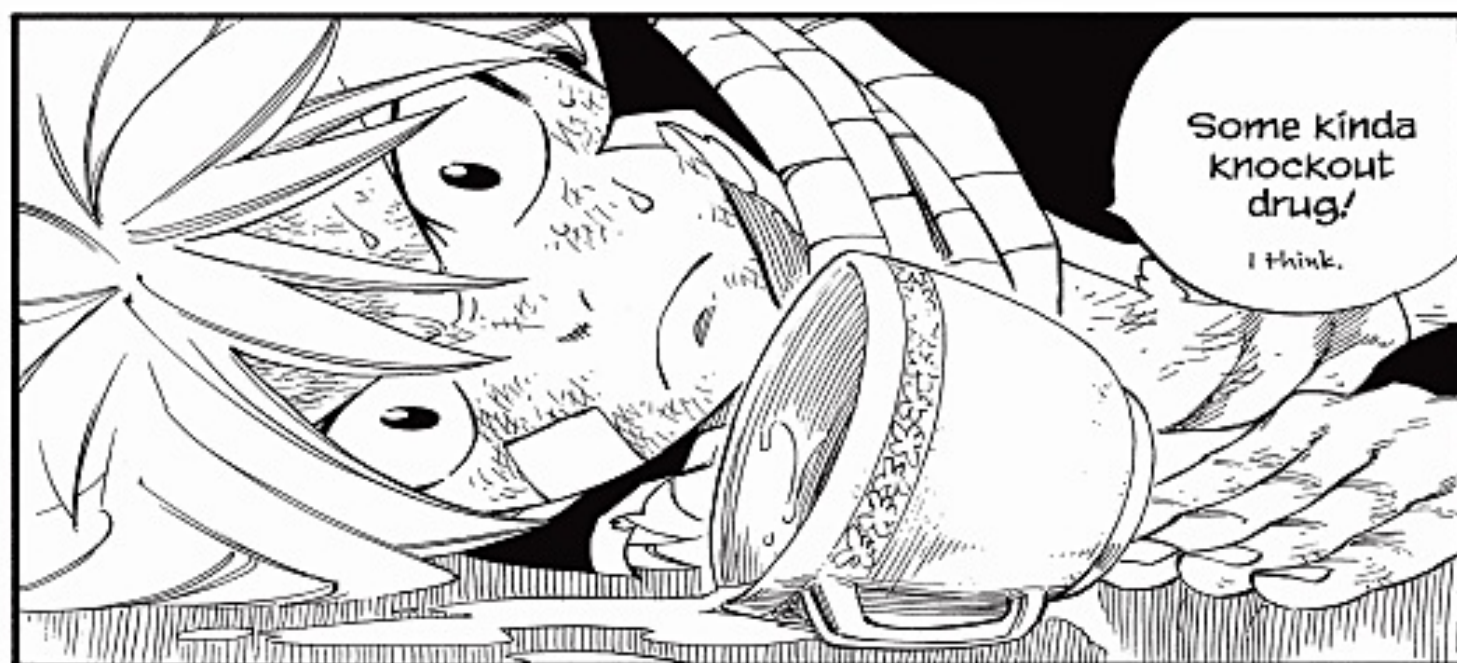
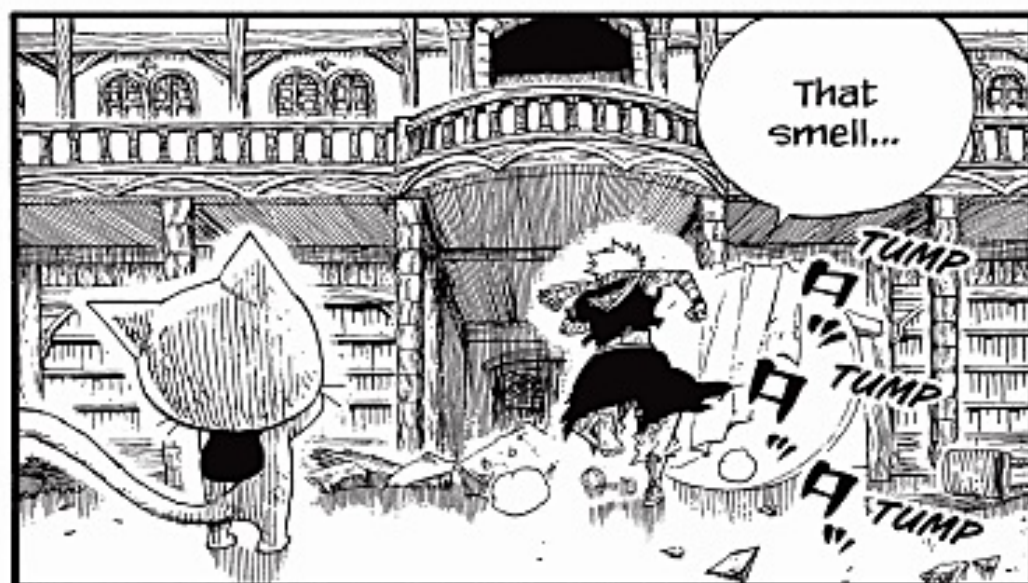




 **FAIRYTAIL**





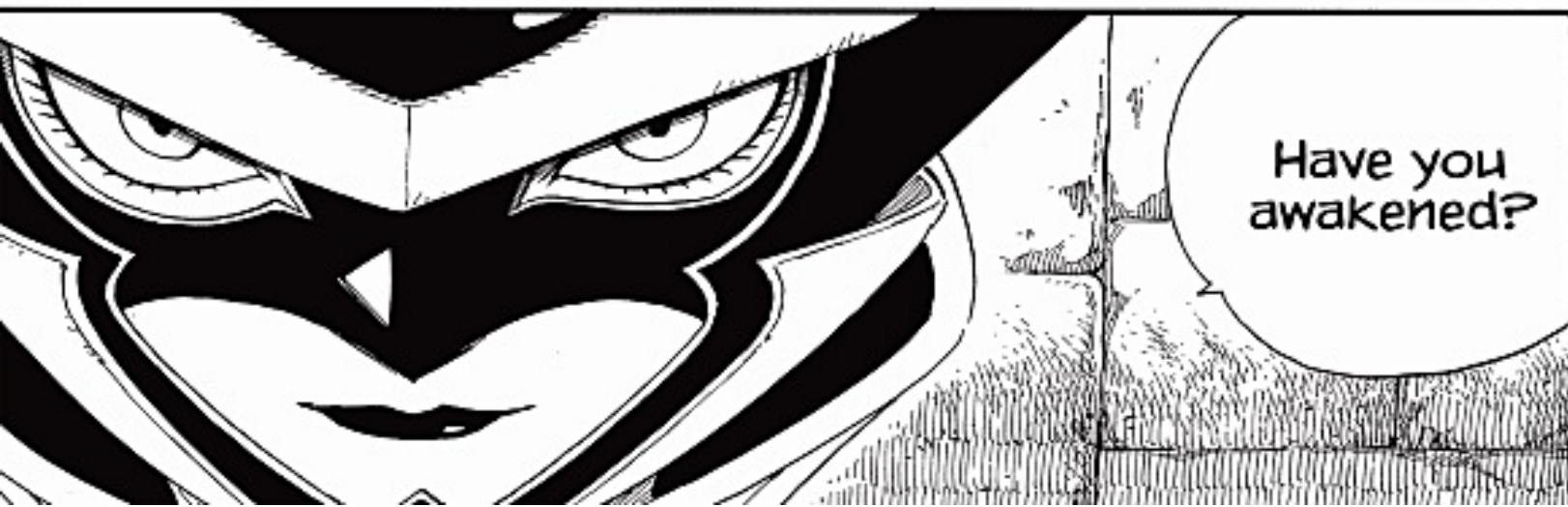




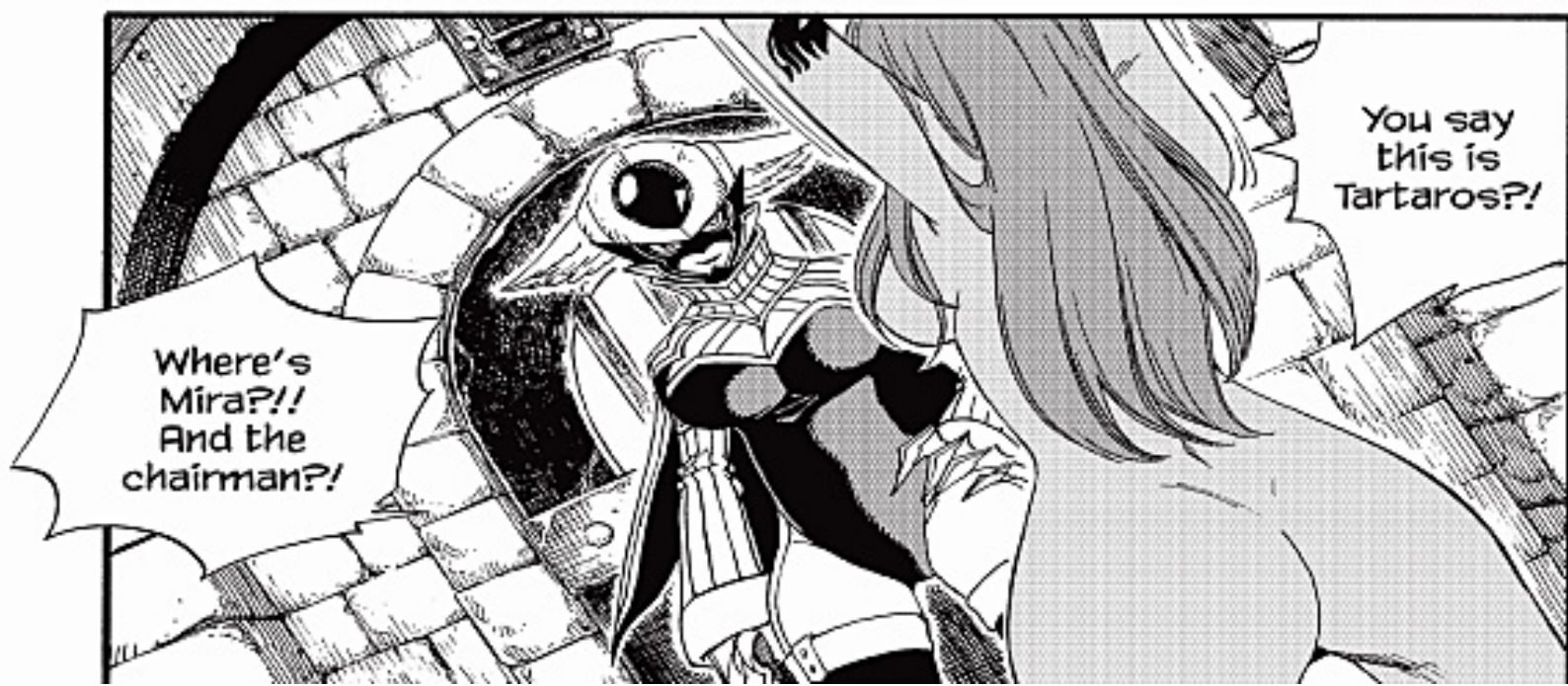




***A dragon's
nose ain't
nothin' to
scoff at!!!***







You have fallen
into his trap, and
now you are our
prisoner.

After our plans
have come to
fruition, he will
likely preside
over the Council
once again.

The former
chairman has
joined us.

That's
impossible!!!!
He would never
betray his
people!!!!

While
they remain
attached, you
cannot use
any magic.

End
this futile
resistance.

Those
restraints
were forged
from magic-
blocking
ore.



She yet
lives.



Mira...!!
Where
is my
friend?!!

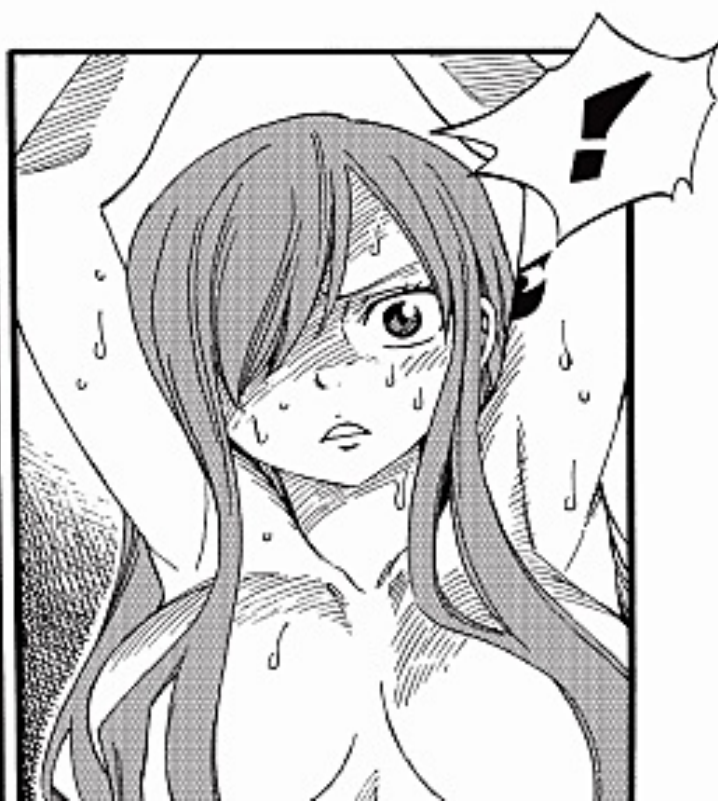


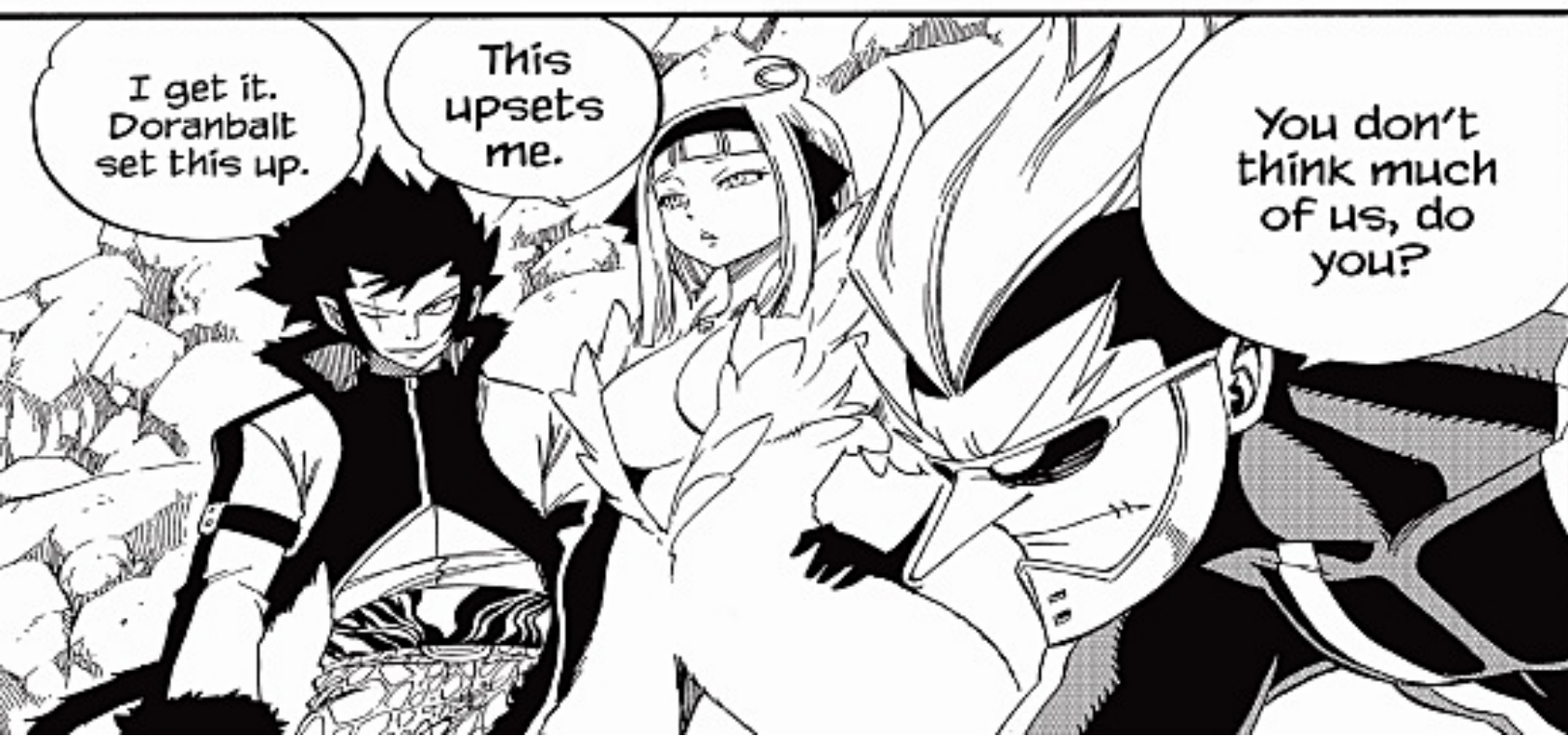
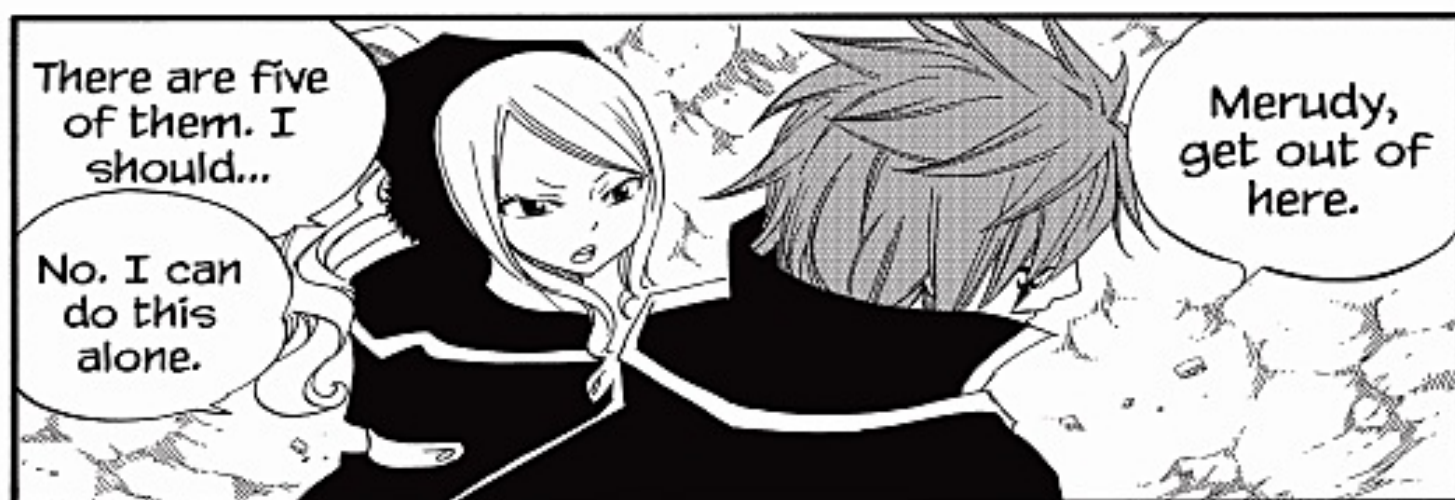
She will
become
this one's
subordinate.

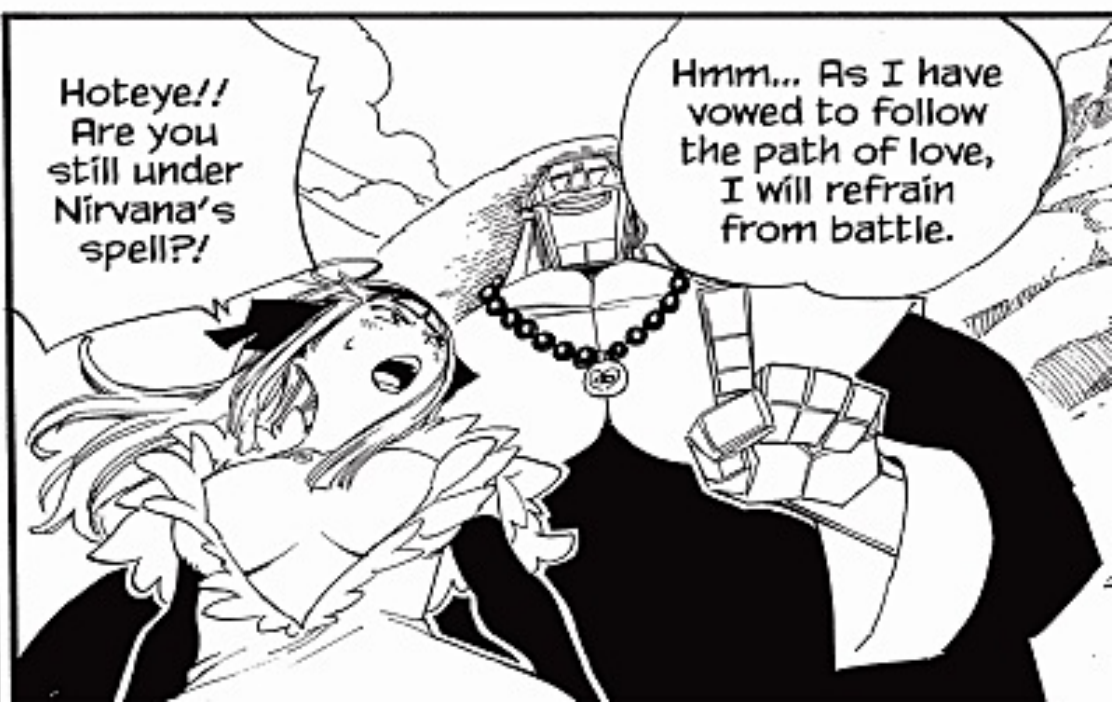
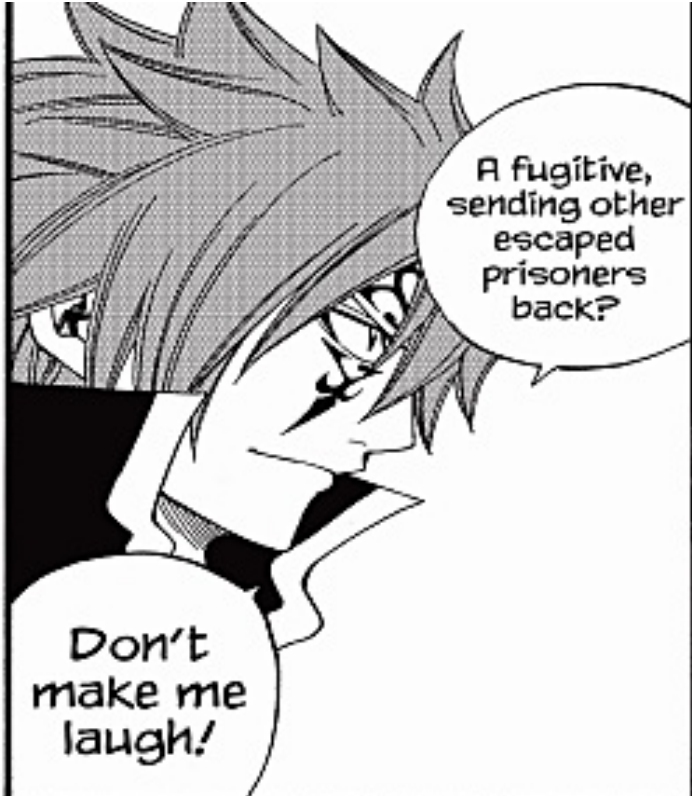
But to do
that, her
flesh must
be altered.

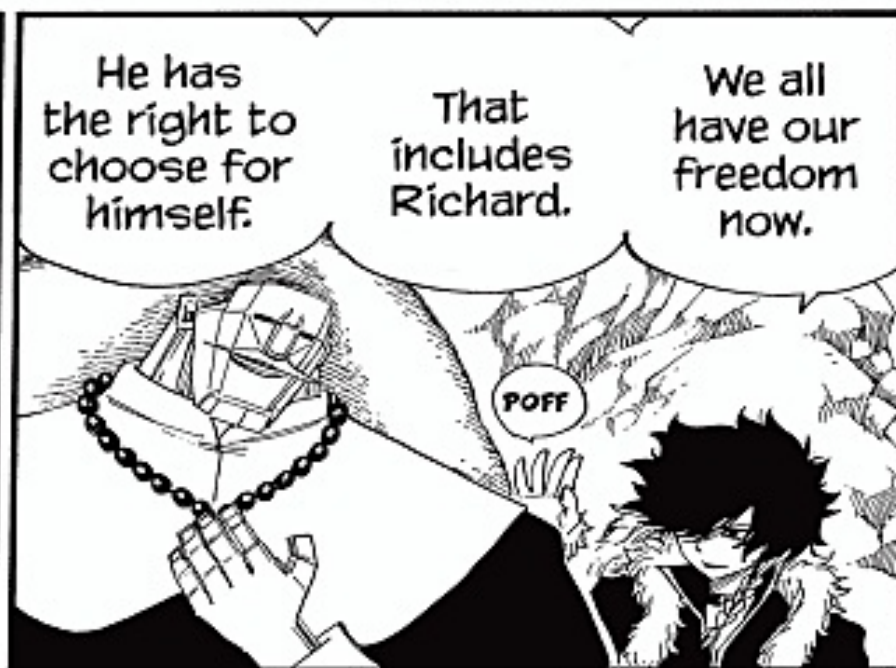


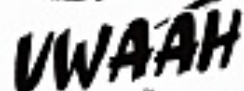
Don't
do it
!!!!

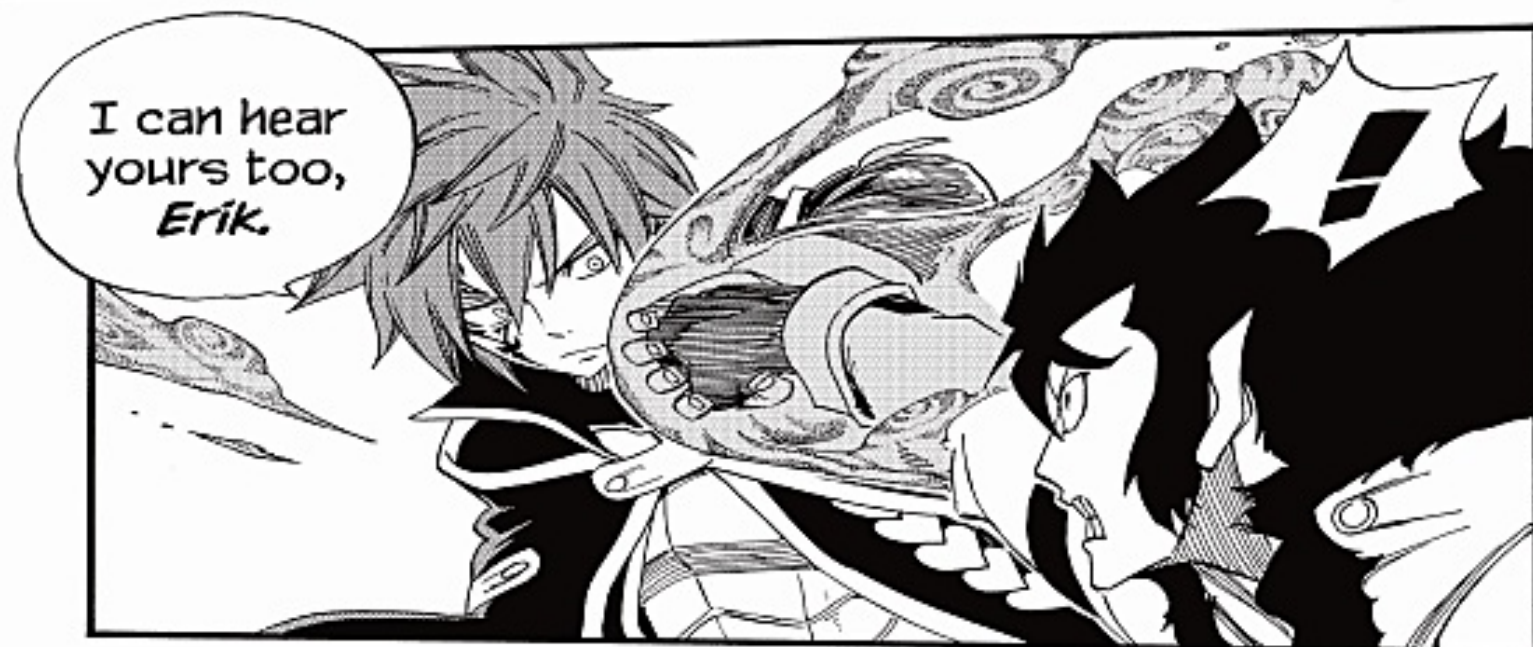




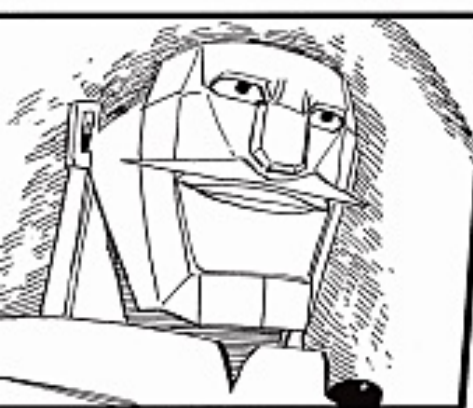


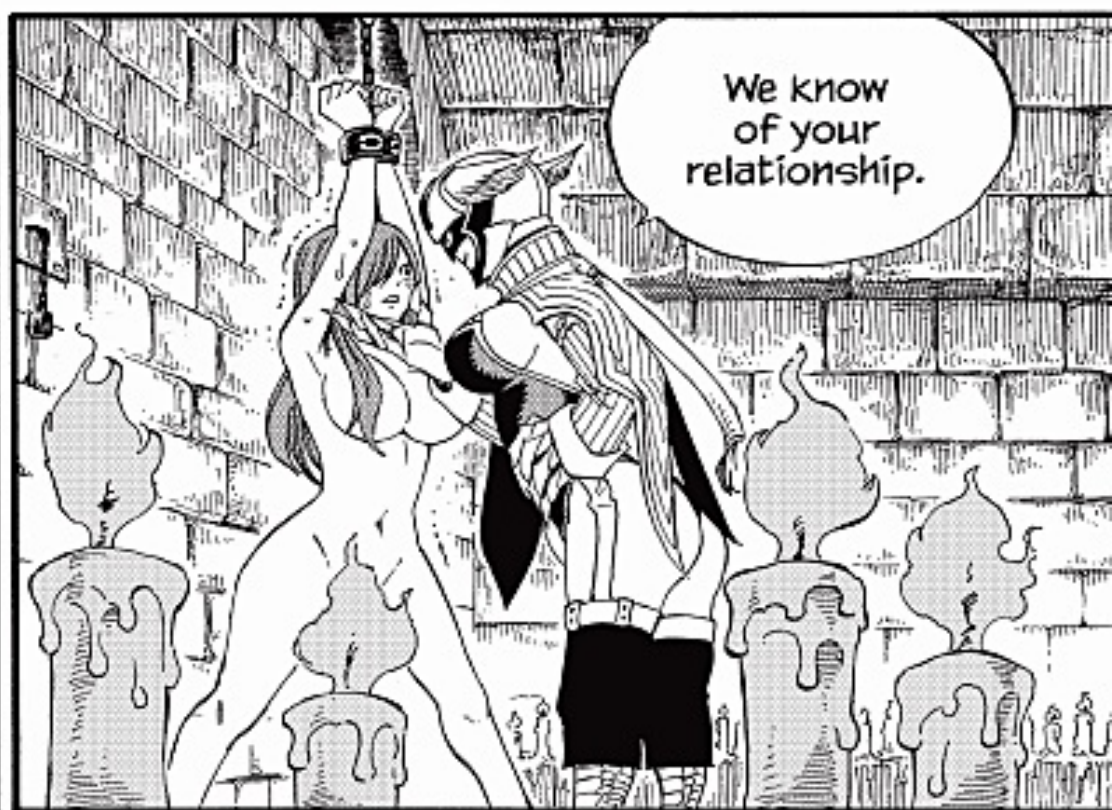




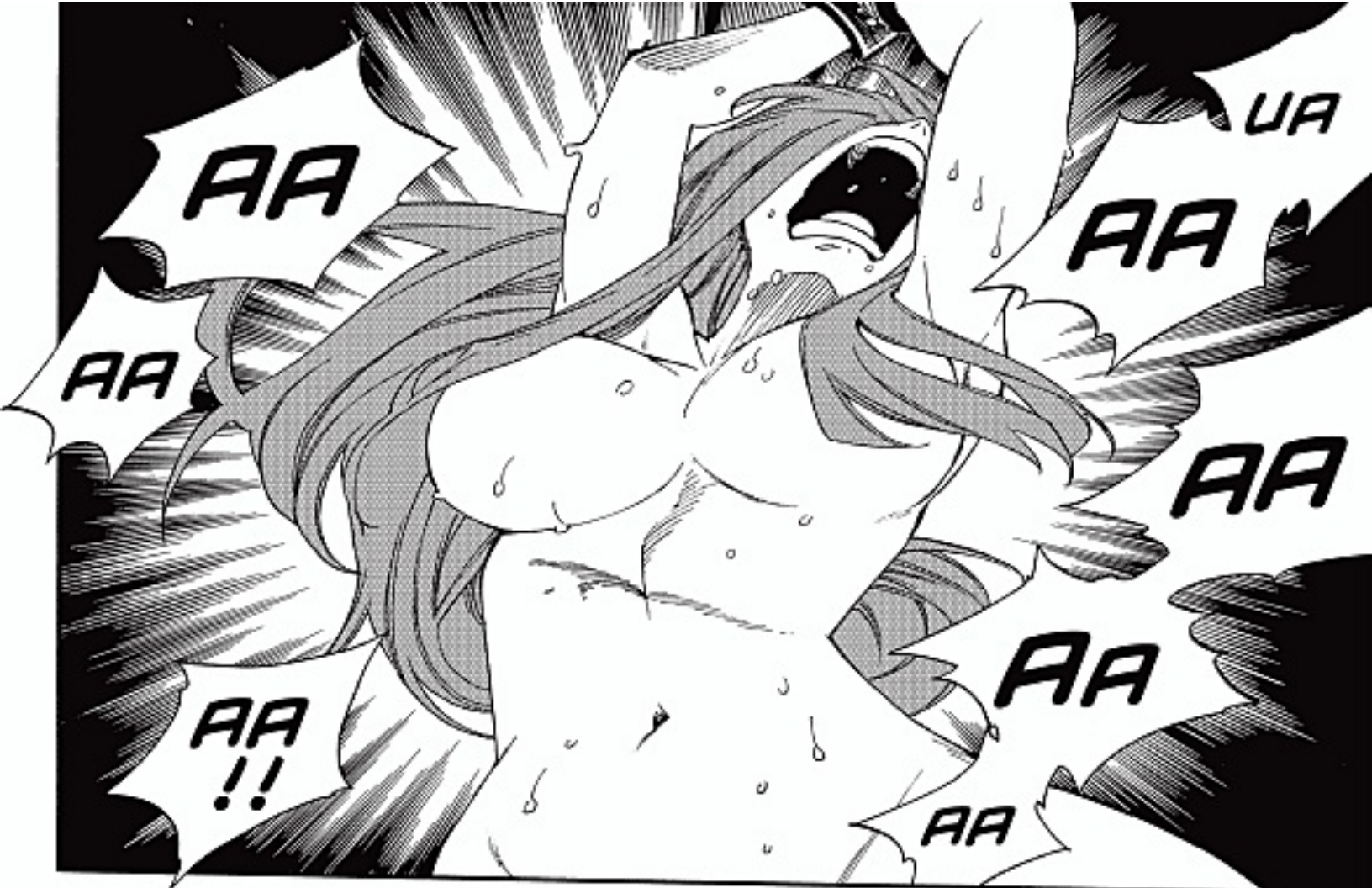




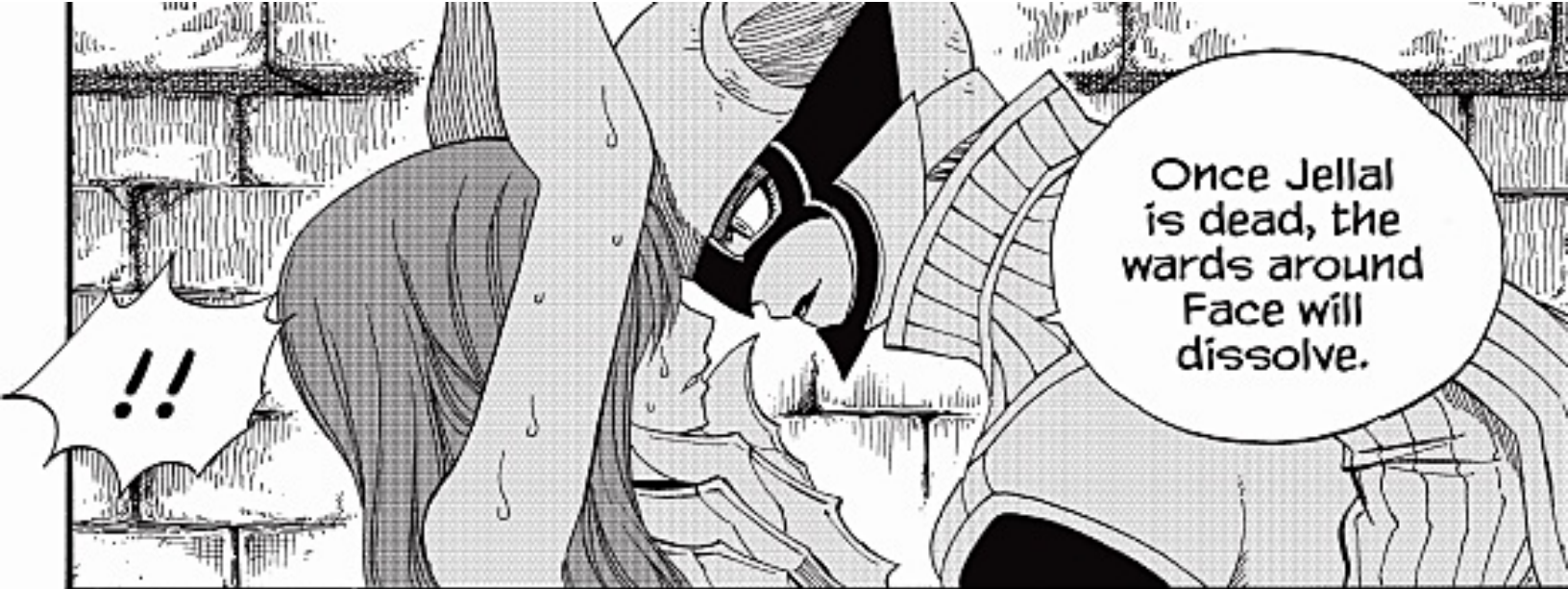


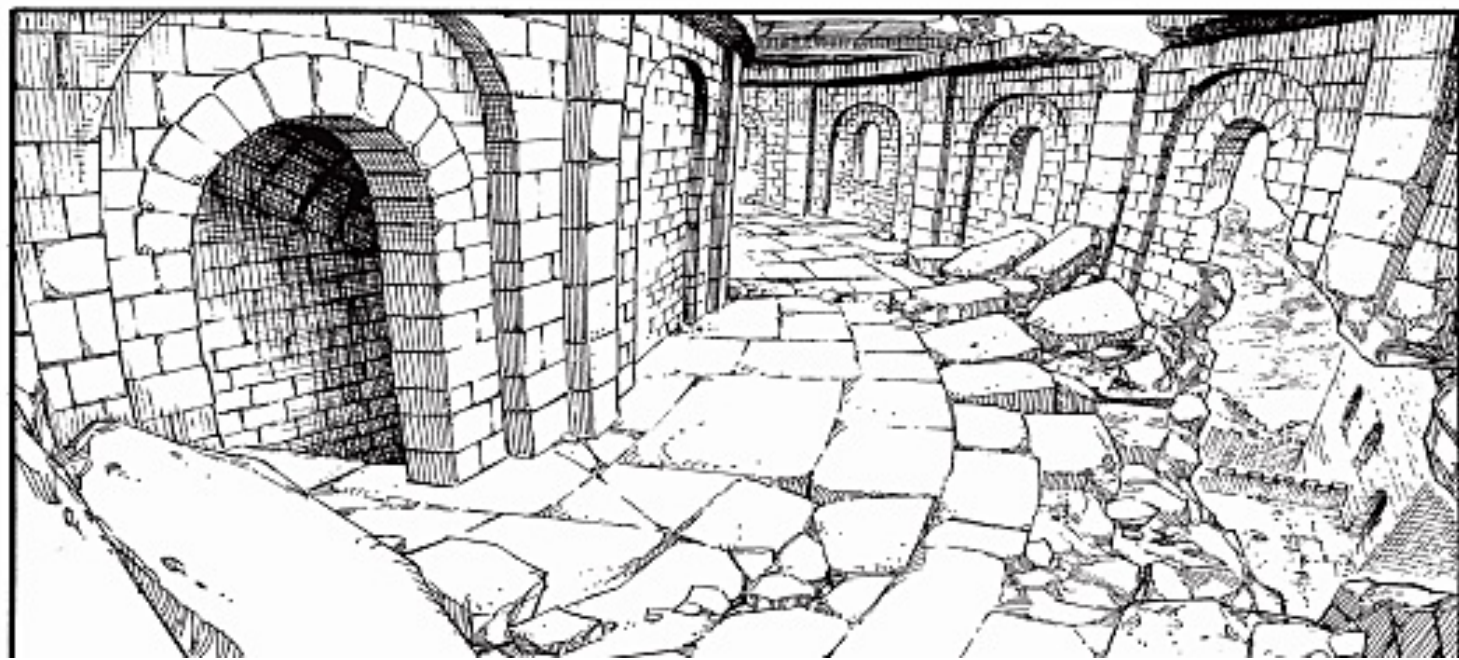
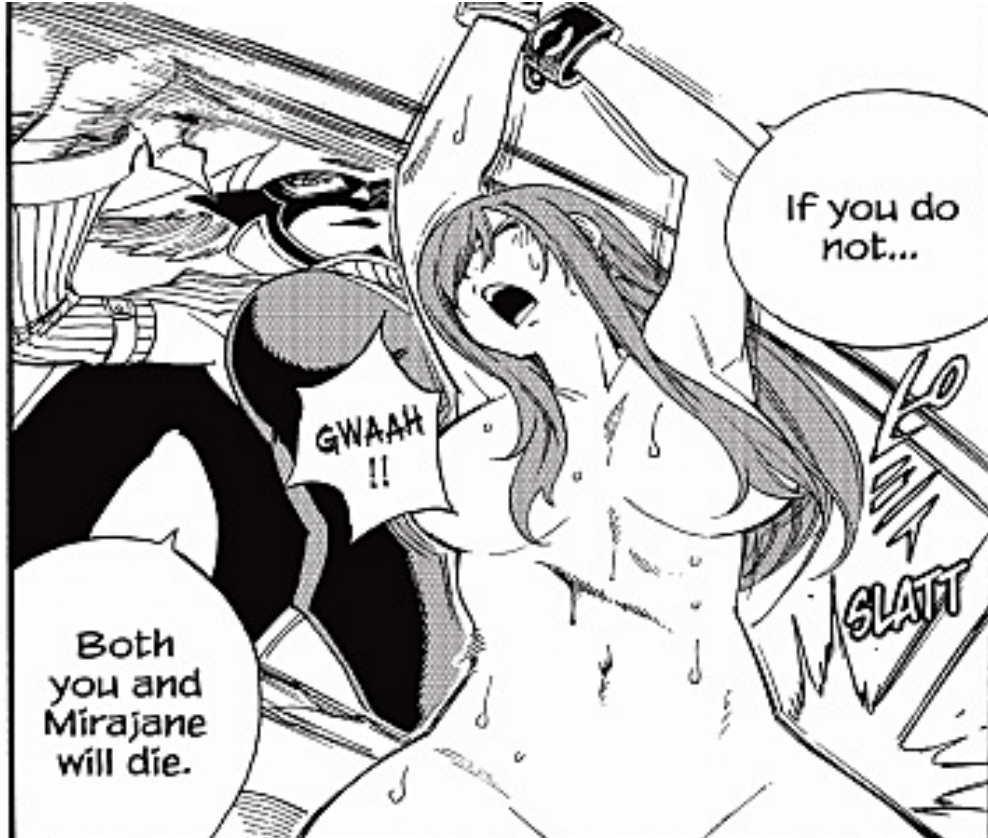














Remember, I gave up all of my retirement funds to take part in this plan!!

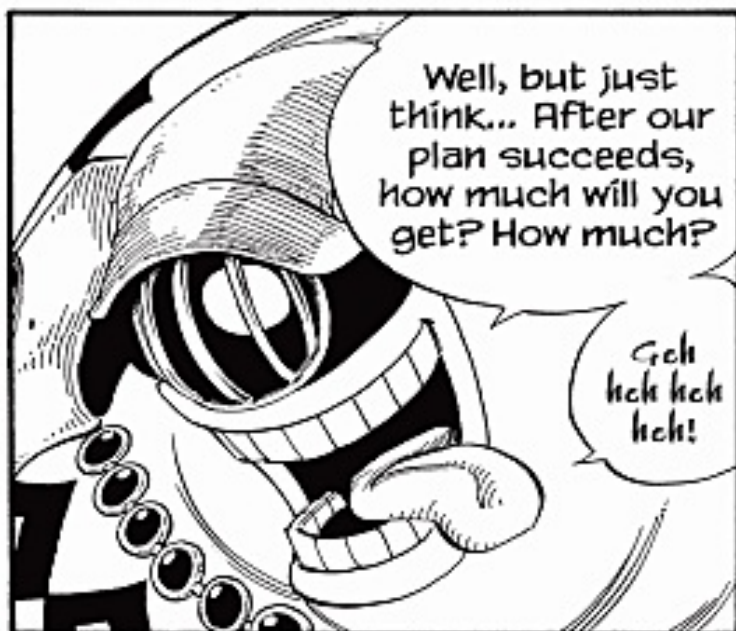
Aw, calm down, Chairman!

Your men ruined my house!!



I suppose I can bear losing the house if the "Crawford was captured by Tartaros" plan works out.

GLEEM



Well, but just think... After our plan succeeds, how much will you get? How much?

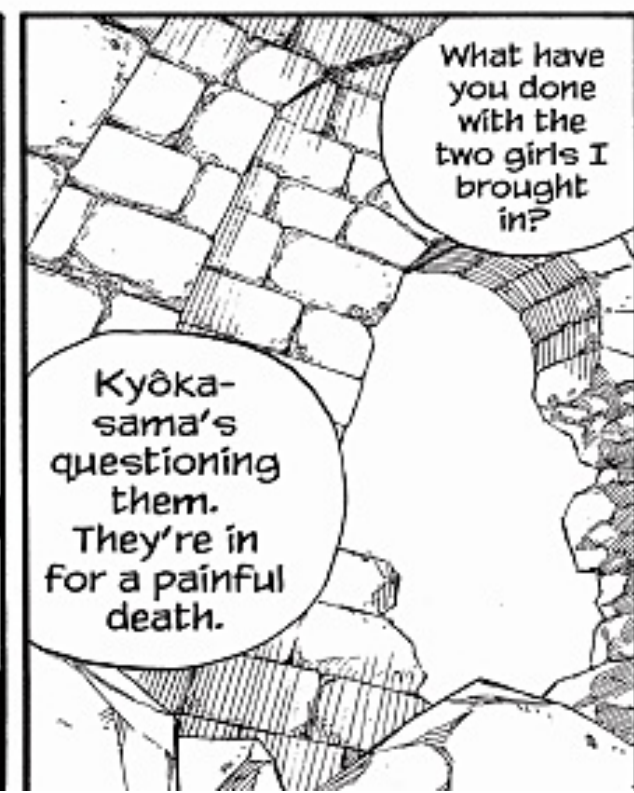
Geh heh heh heh!



Don't worry. First of all, no one will ever be able to find this place.

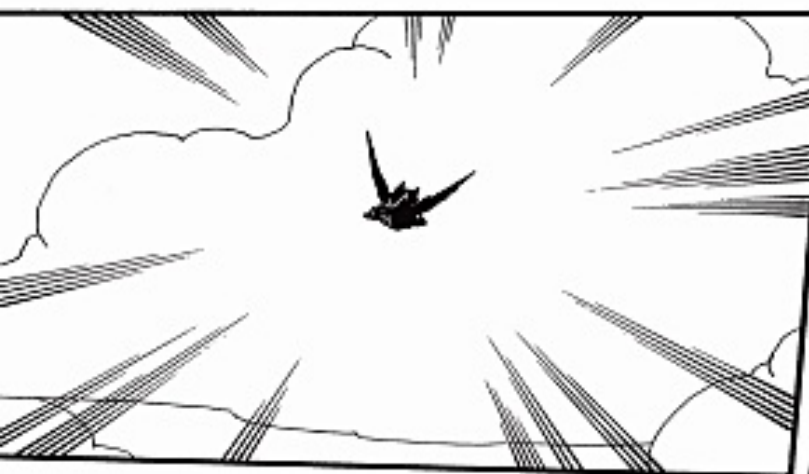
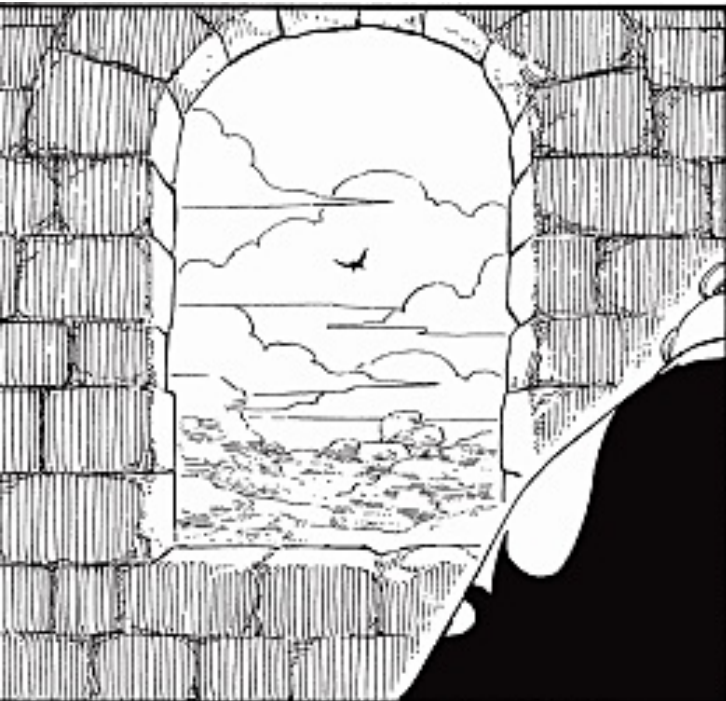


They had better be!! If they live through this, they may be able to cast doubt on me!!

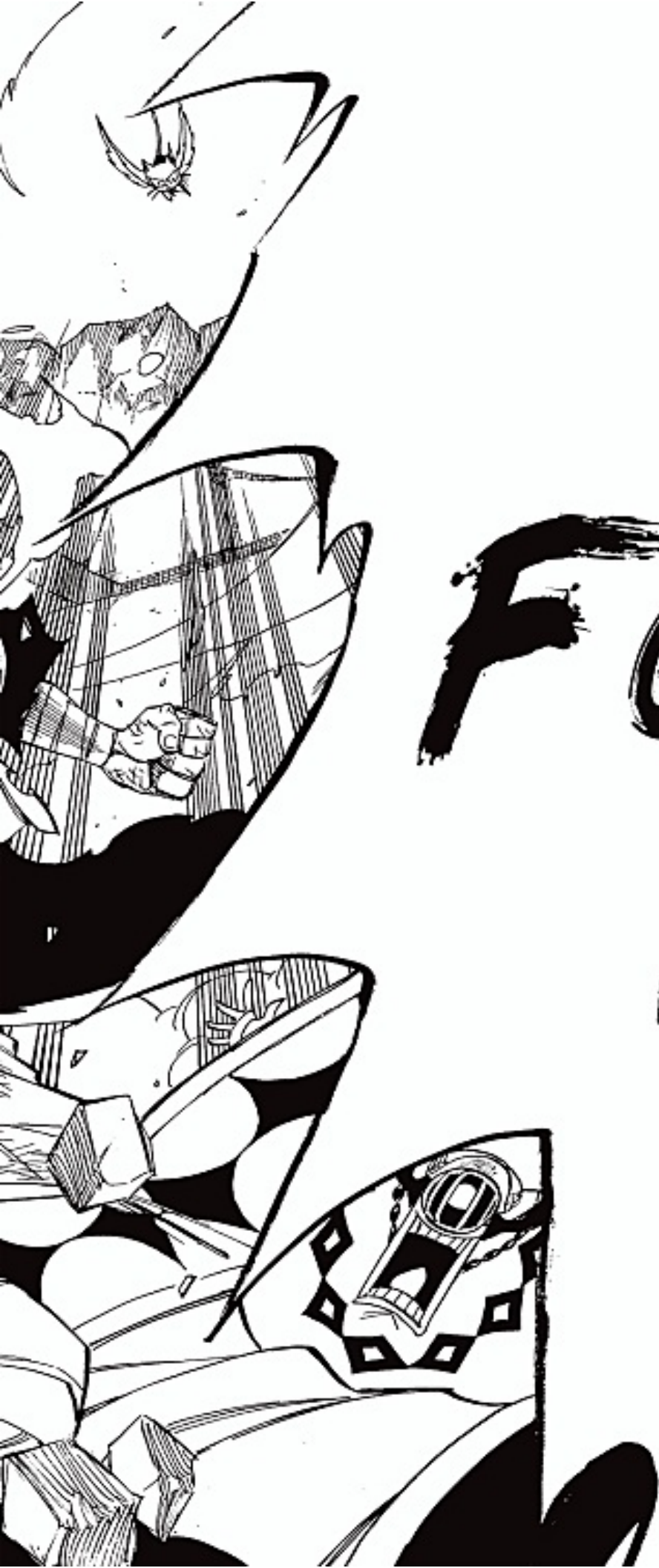


What have you done with the two girls I brought in?

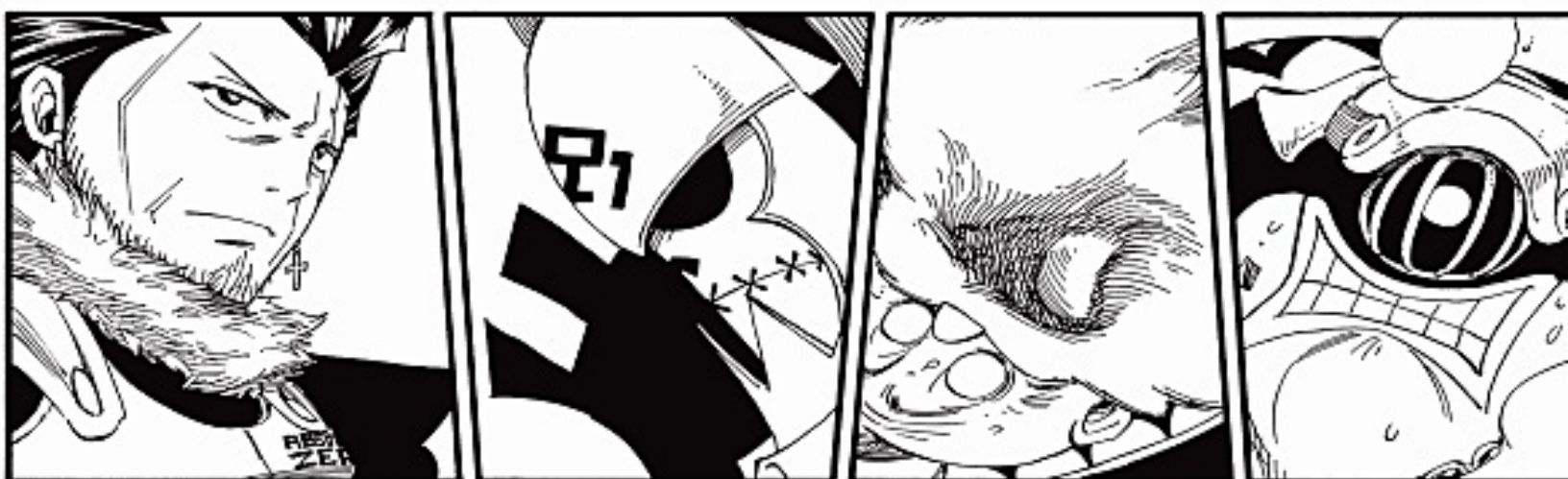
Kyôka-sama's questioning them. They're in for a painful death.





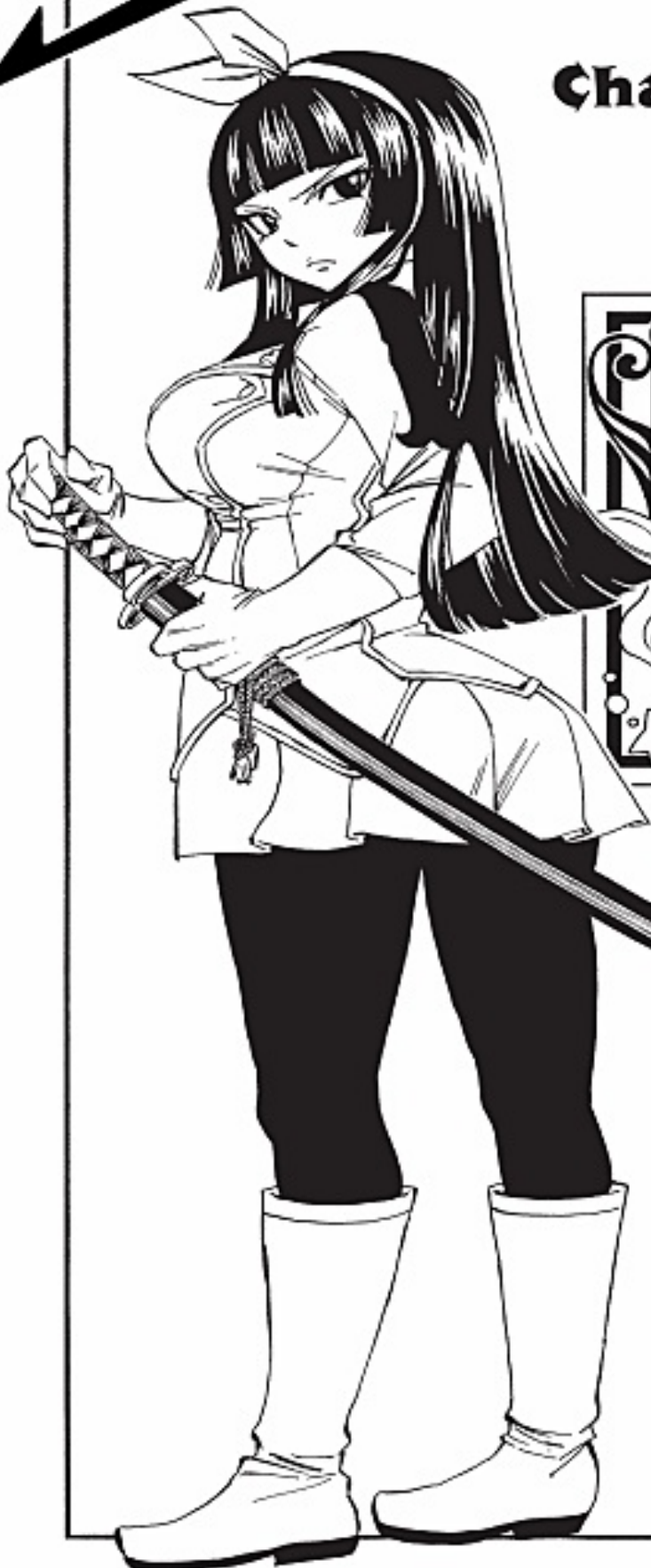


I
FOUND
YOU
!!!!!!



FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 366: 1,000 Souls



MERMAID HEEL

Name: Kagura Mikazuchi Age: 23

Magic:

Gravity Magic, among others

Likes:

Her brother

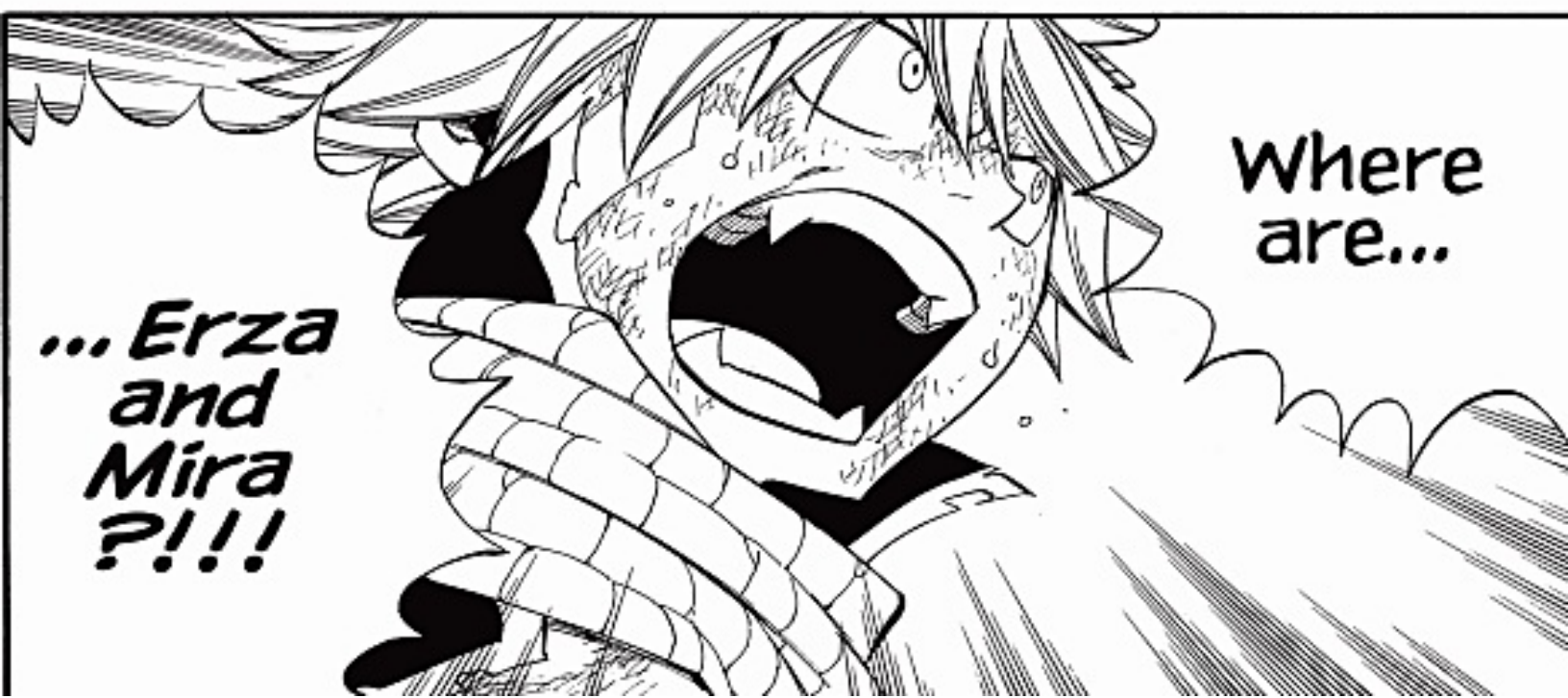
Dislikes:

Jellal

Remarks

Like Erza, she came from Rosemary Village, but the child snatchers took her brother away. Ever since then, she's studied magic and the sword in order to find him again.

When she met Millianna, she learned about the death of her brother, and decided to dedicate her sword to a new goal: revenge against Jellal. But after encountering Erza in the Grand Magic Games, she has started to have doubts about her determination as well as her hatred of Jellal.

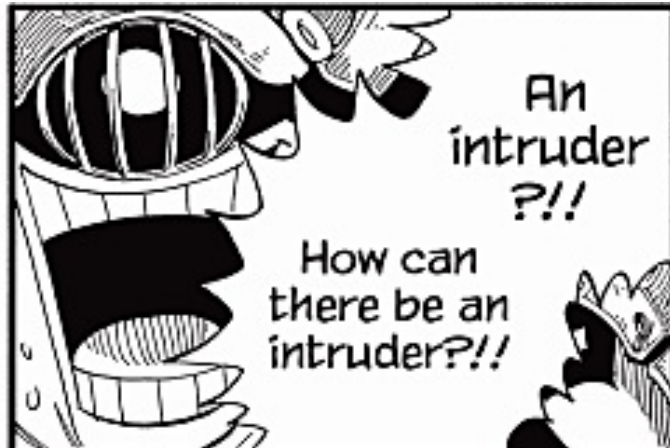


**...Erza
and
Mira
?!!!**

**Where
are...**



How much do
you think that
broken wall is
going to cost
to fix?! How
much?!!



An
intruder
?!!

How can
there be an
intruder?!!



It is
raucous
without.



先ず
ZLIMM

Yakdriga!





GHEE!

Watch this woman.

This one will determine the situation.

ZLURP

LURP

LURP

LURP



TWITCH

She is not to be touched!

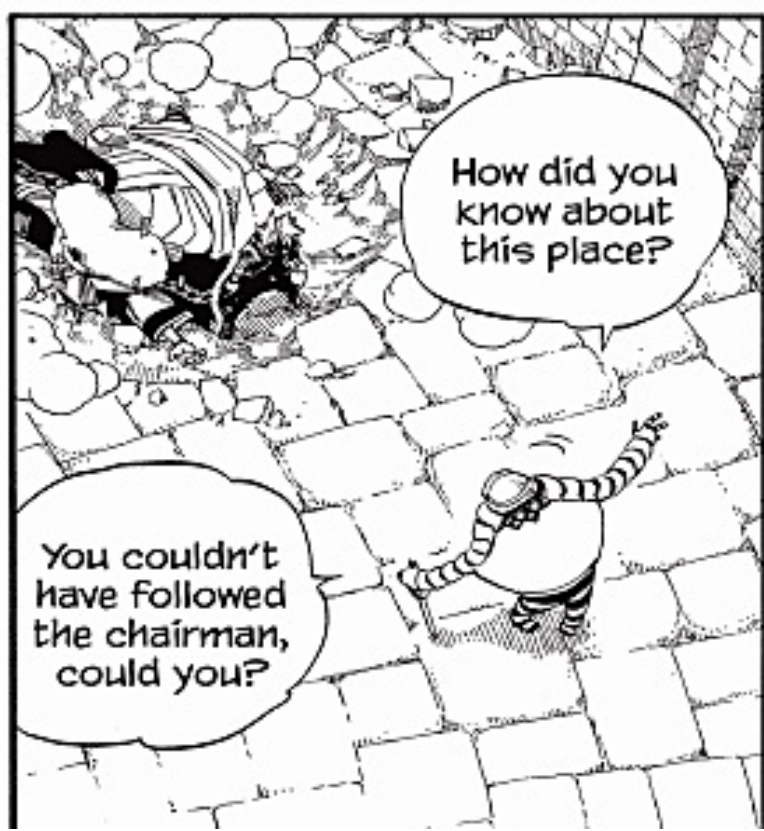
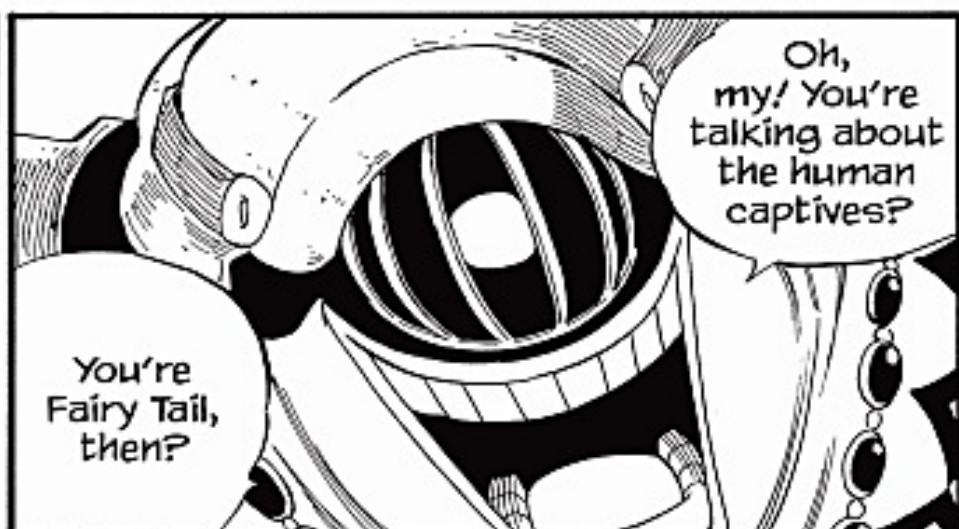


VZZT!!
VZZT!!
VZZT!!
VZZT!!

VZZT!!
VZZT!!
VZZT!!
VZZT!!



You might deprive this one of some much anticipated enjoyment.





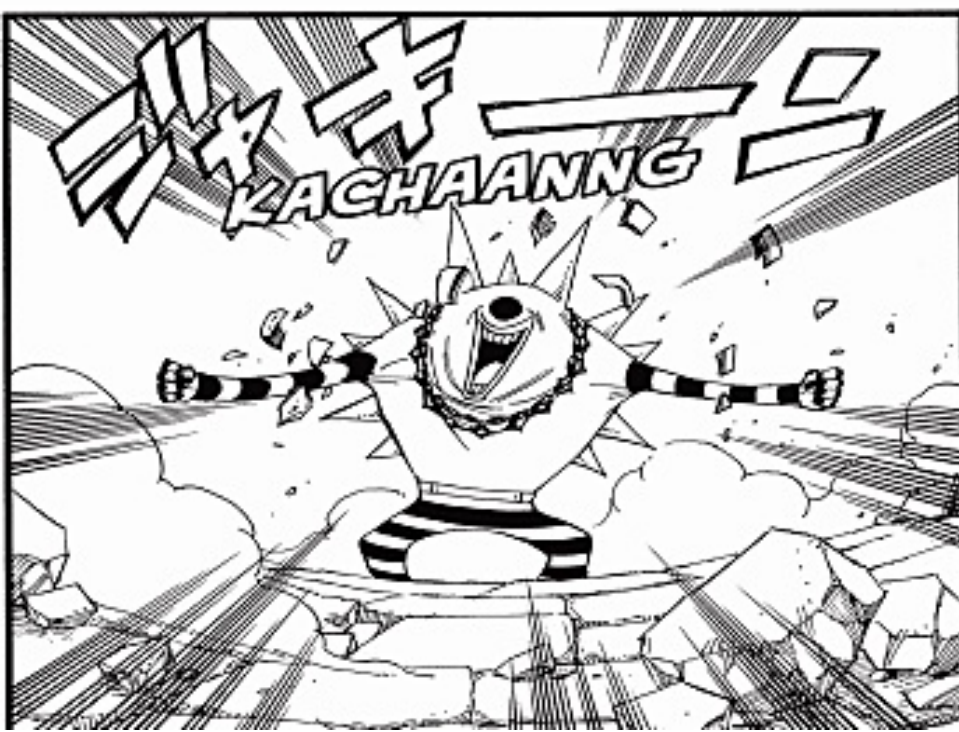
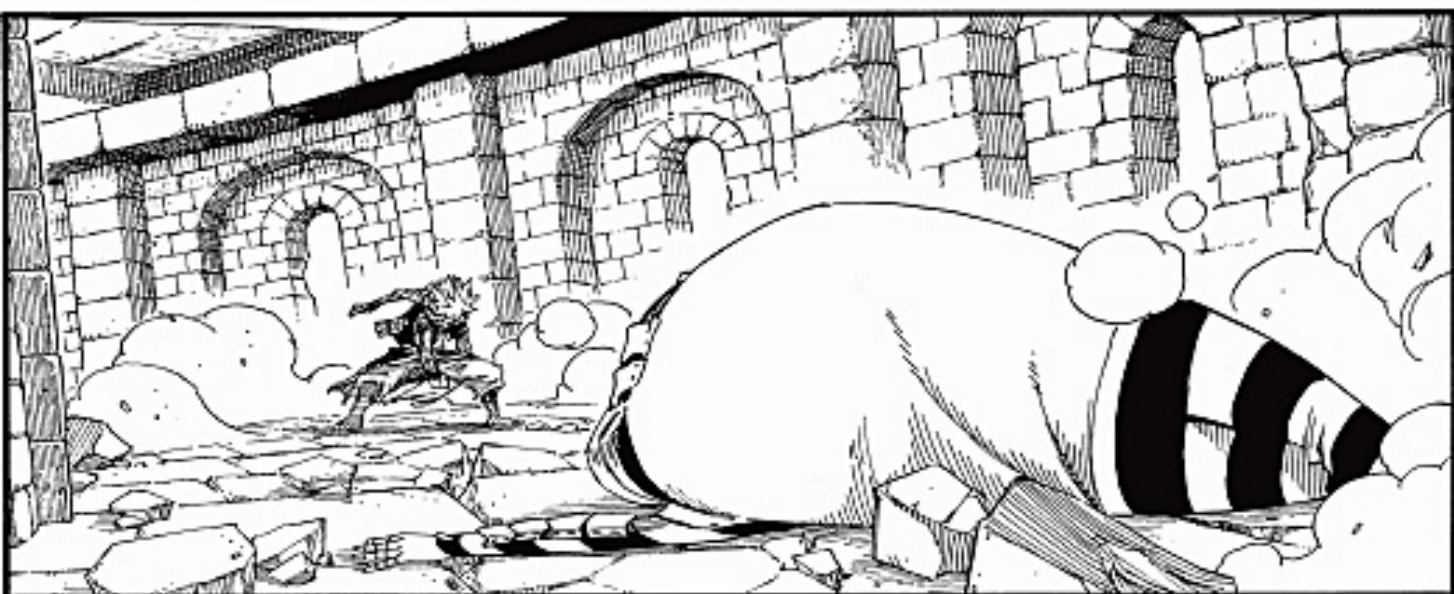
***You
talk too
much
!!!!***

BOM









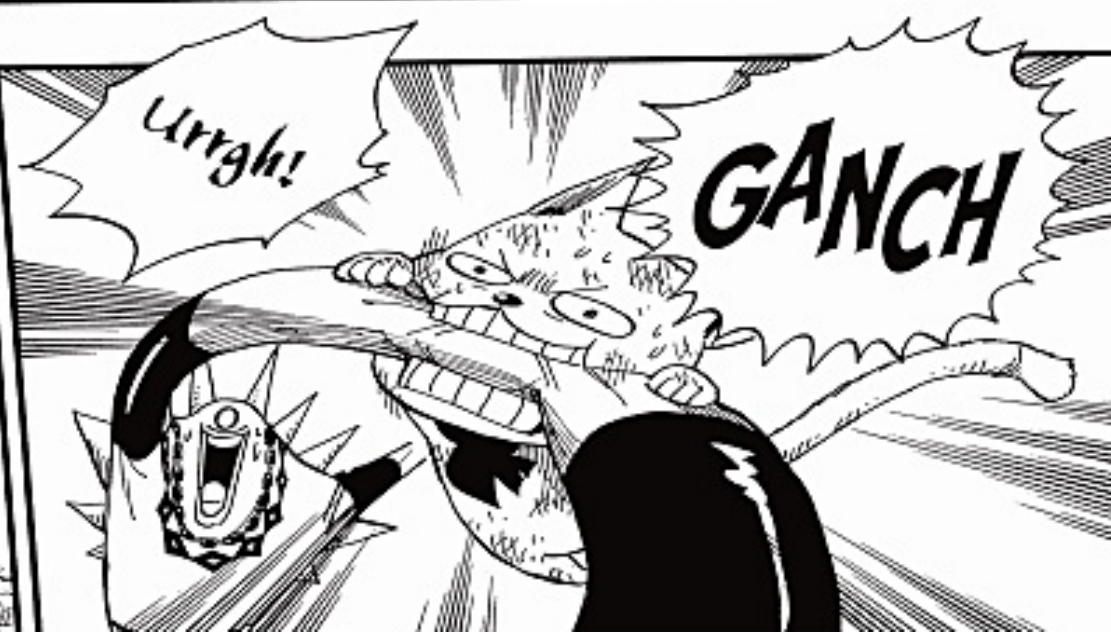
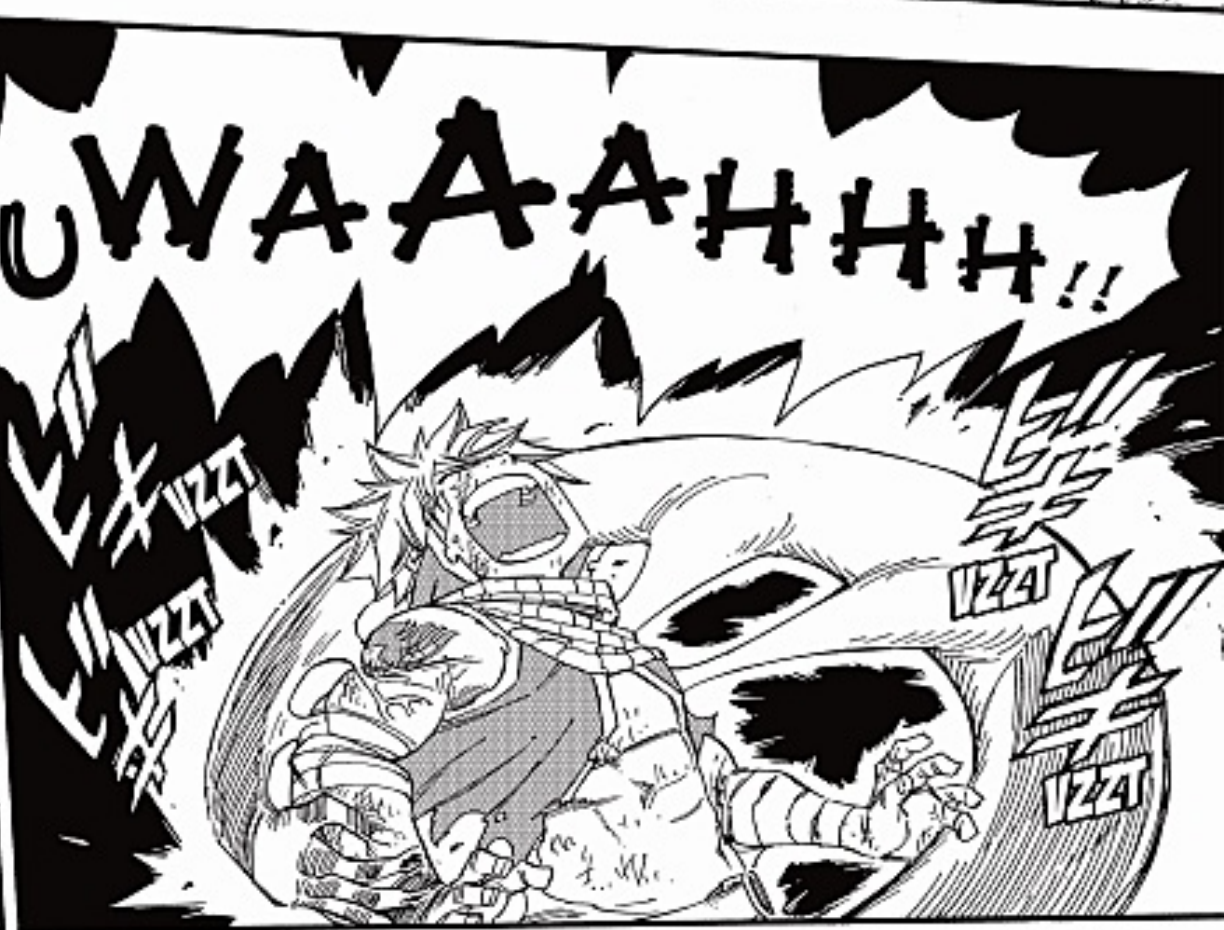
**The price
is 1,000
souls!!!!**

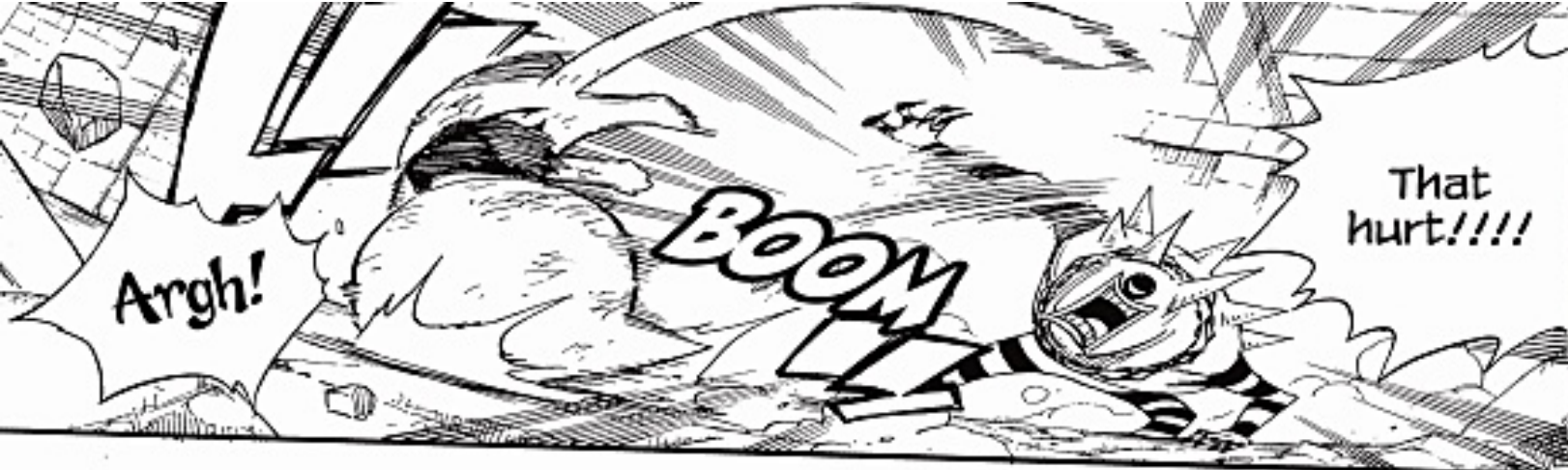
**!!
VYUUM**

**!!
WHOOOSH**

GYUUM

His body
stretches
!!





Argh!

BOOM

That hurt!!!!



WHOOOSH

WHOOOSH

SHUUM



SHUUM

EEEE
GYEEE
EEEEEE
!!!!

What are you doing to Happy?!!!



FWOOSH



*Fire Dragon's

Karyū
no*

...



WHACK

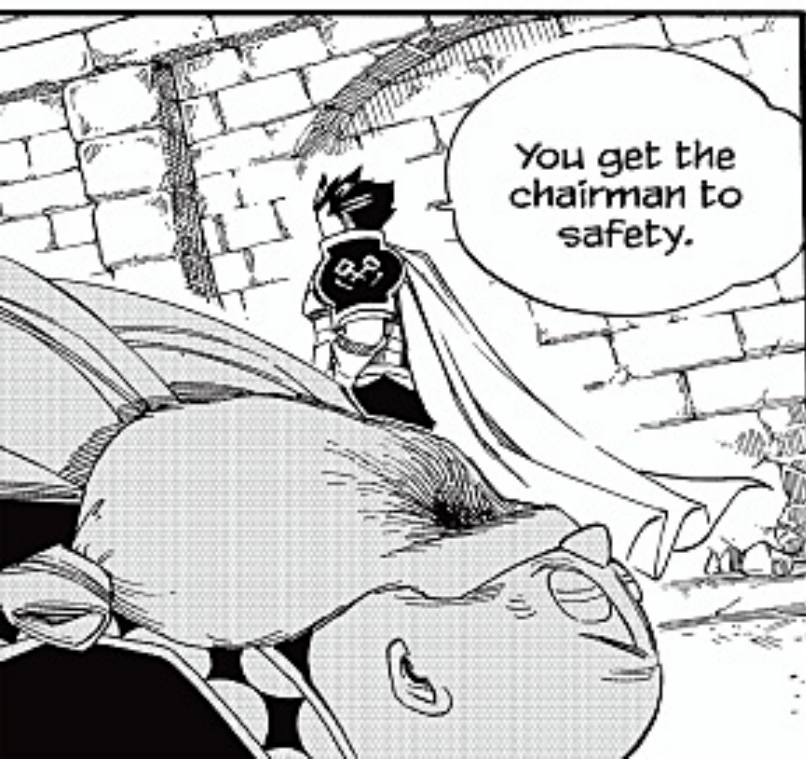
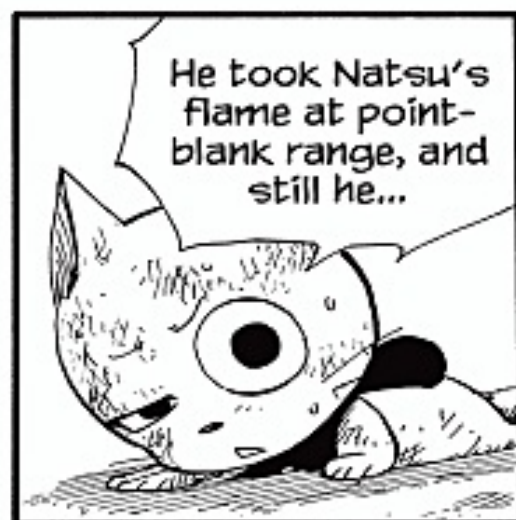
NGAH!!

...
**AKU-
GEKI***
!!!!

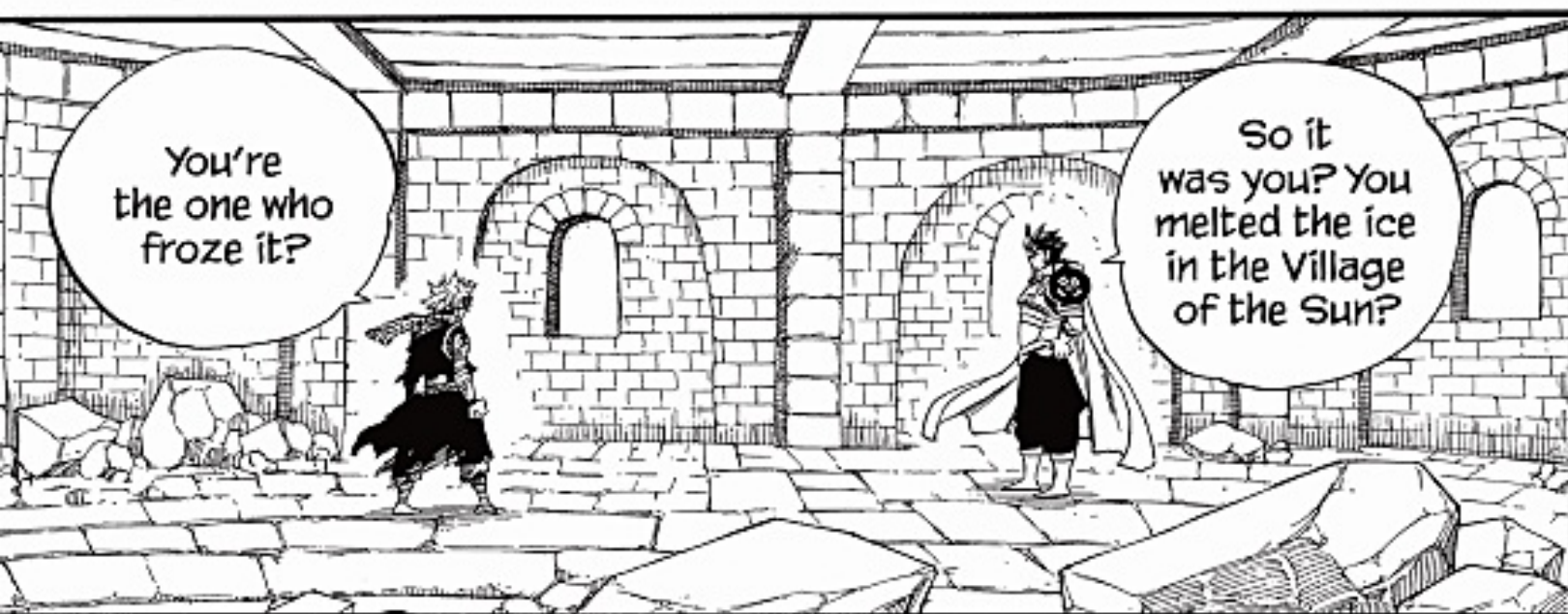
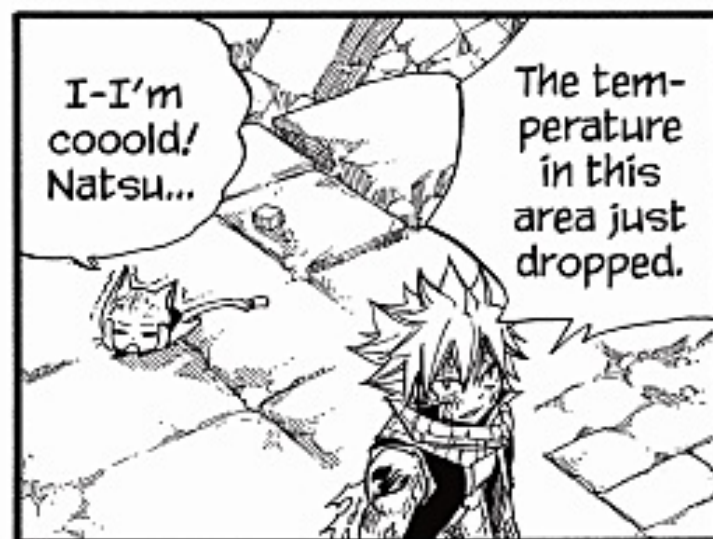
DOOOOOM

*Crushing Blitz

!!ZANKU!!

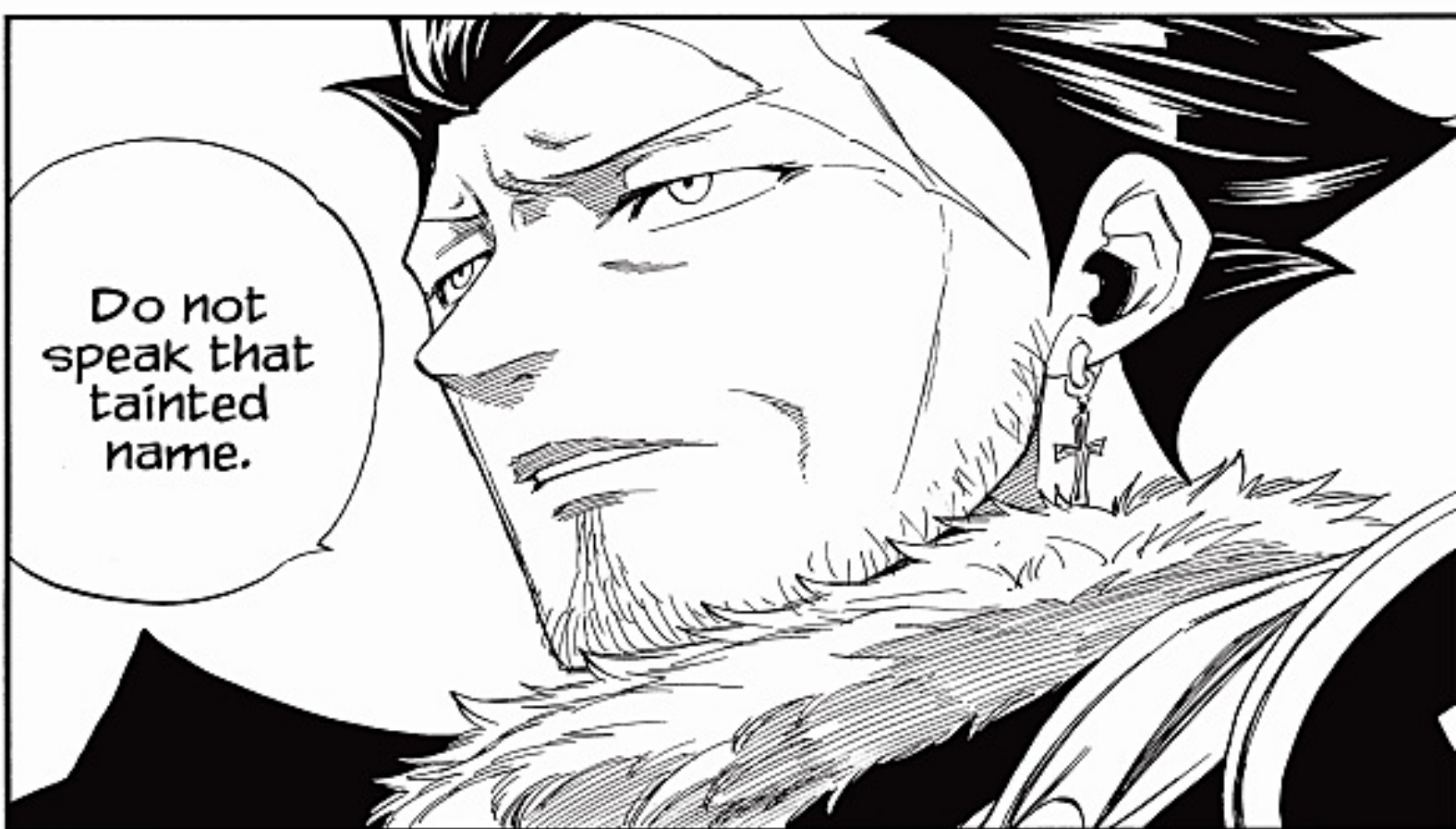












FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 367: Jellal vs. Oración Seis



MERMAID HEEL	
Name: Millianna	Age: 23
Magic: Binding Magic	
Likes: Cats	Dislikes: Shrimp & Lobster

Remarks

While out traveling, she met Kagura, and was immediately charmed by her. After that, she entered Mermaid Heel and improved her skills. Knowing she and Erza would finally be reunited at the Grand Magic Games, Millianna wore a hood so she could surprise her.

She is still in contact with Shō and Wally while the two are happily traveling the world. Her favorite saying is, "Are you all pumped up?"

Cool down
in there for
a while!

KACHANG

Urg!

WHUDD!!

No... I don't
even care about
that!!! I want
my scarf!!! Just
give me that
back!!!!

HEY! CLANK

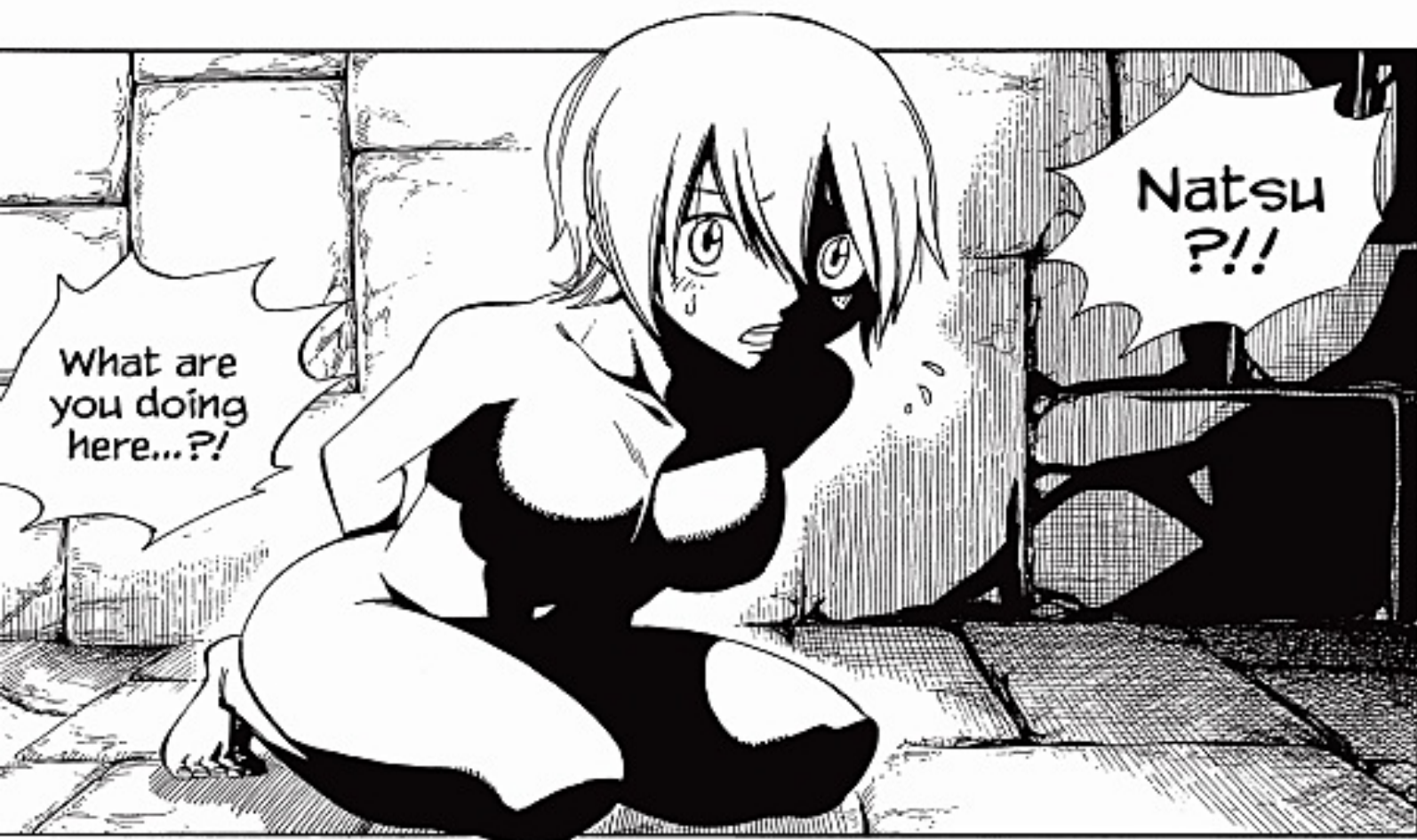
AAAAH?!
Where's my
clothes?!

Gimme
back my
scarf!!!!

CLANG

Hey!!
Don't
you hear
me?!!

CLANG





Who would expect that they'd manage to capture so many of us...?



This enemy is way better than any we've faced before...

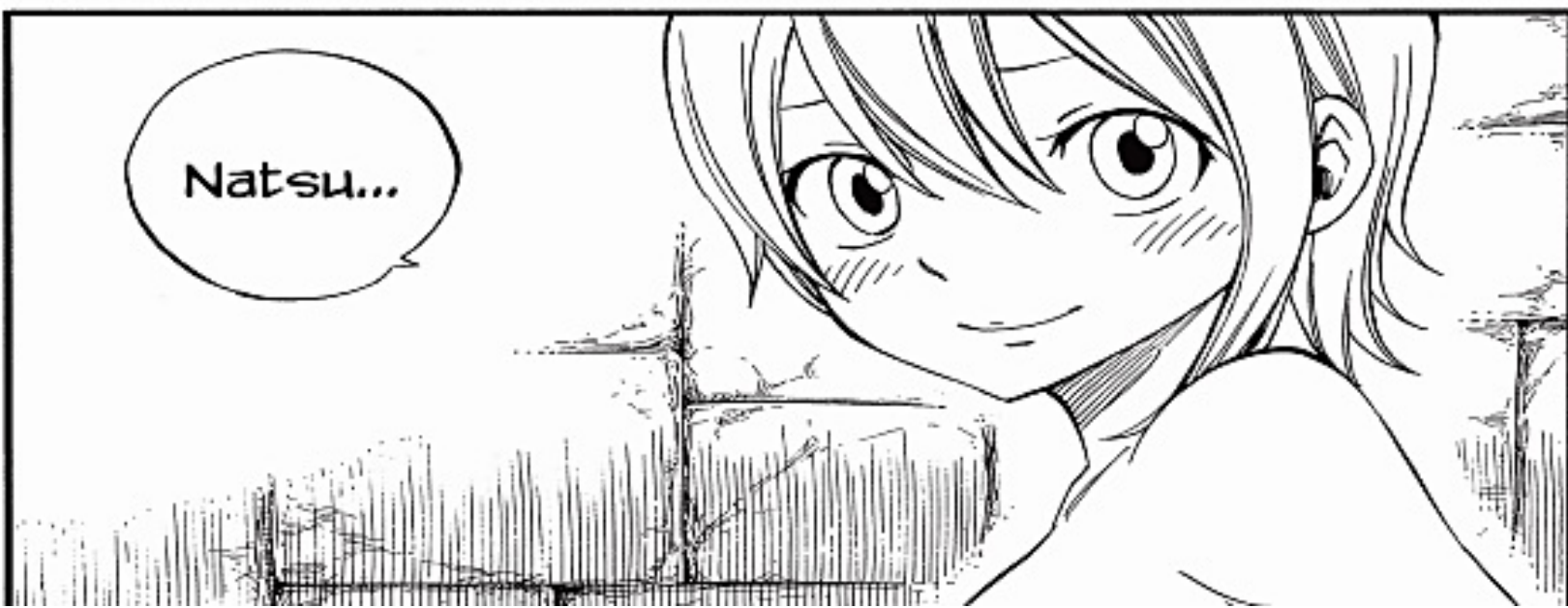


What'll we do...? I'll bet Elf is locked up, too...

But first, we gotta get outta here!!!

Ain't nothing different!! We're still gonna win!!!

Natsu...



How do we...



CLANK



But we can't use magic.

Don't look this way!

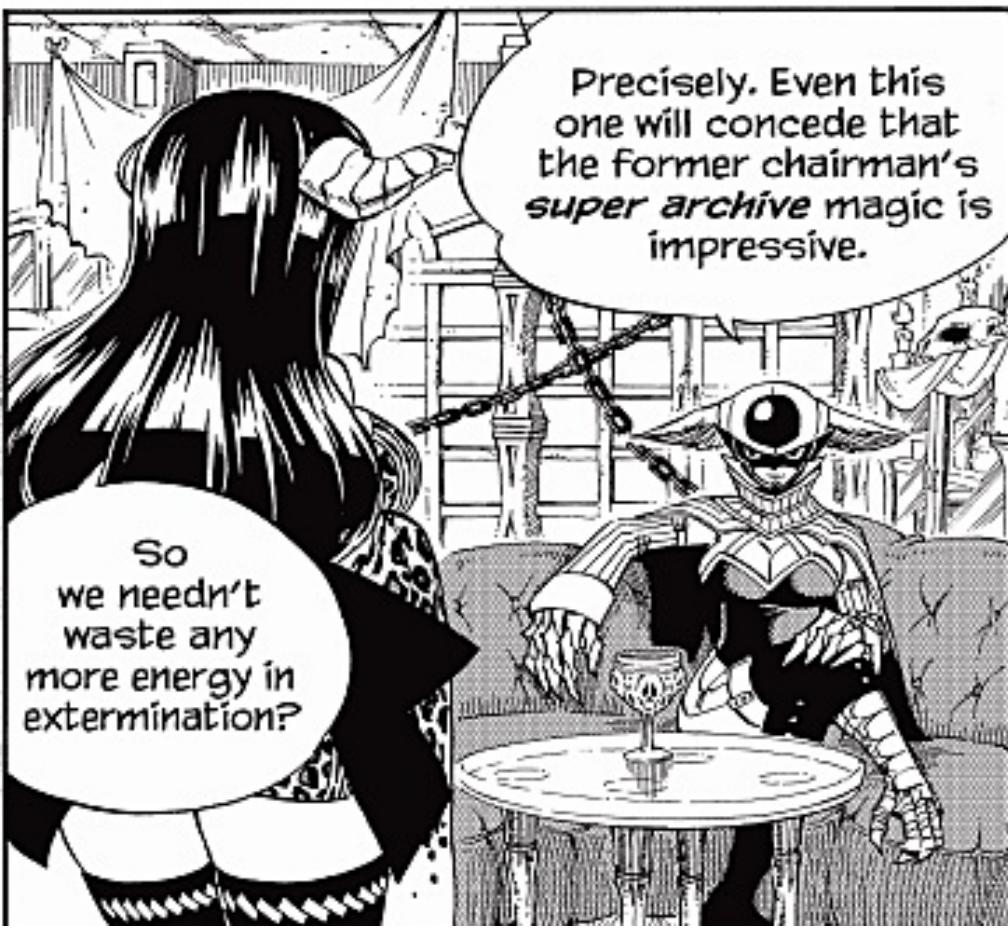
GRUNCH



Sorry.



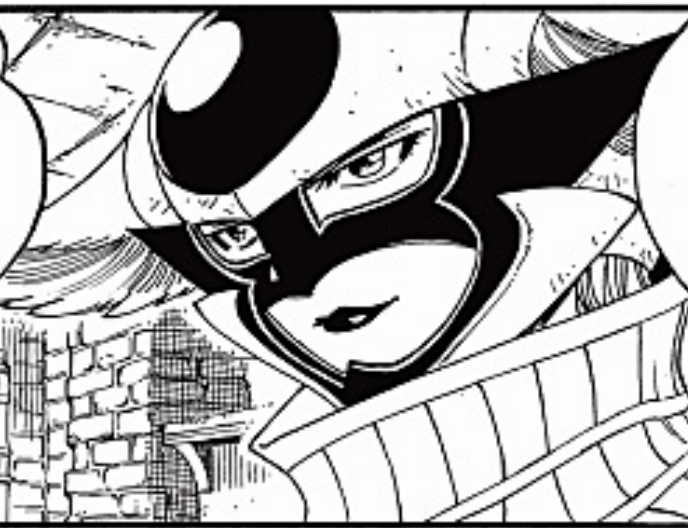
Precisely. Even this one will concede that the former chairman's *super archive* magic is impressive.



So we needn't waste any more energy in extermination?

You say you know the three humans who constitute the ward?





When we find and eliminate the single remaining link, Jellal, we may activate Face.

Of the three, two were among the targets we have already disposed of.



Are we near to finding this Jellal?



And yet, it is one we require.

Face... A magic pulse bomb seems like a frightening, world-ending weapon.

Yes, I am well aware of that.



However, we must prevent Fairy Tail from diverting us any longer.

Your "Macro" would be effective as well, though that approach offers little sport.



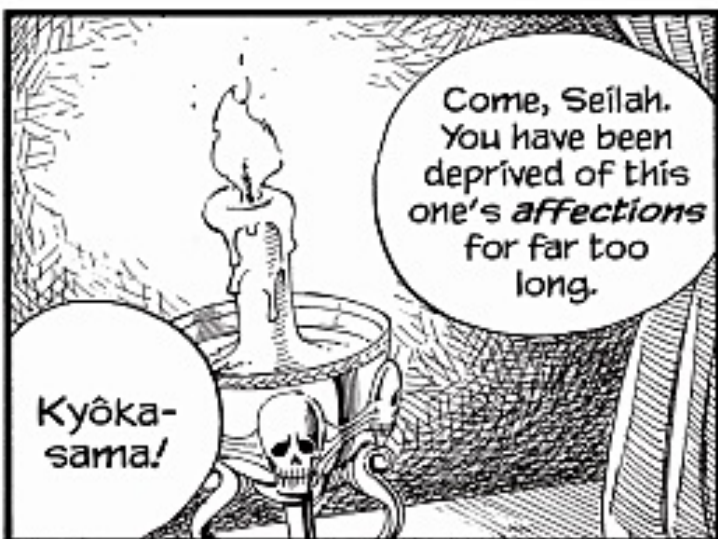
Loosening lips is your specialty, Kyôka-sama.

That will depend on Erza.



I've already
crafted the
perfect ending
to Fairy Tail's
story.

You can
leave that
to me.



Kyôka-
sama!

Come, Seilah.
You have been
deprived of this
one's *affections*
for far too
long.



BOOM



But... I
can't just
leave you
alone...

Merudy,
get out of
here!!



Jellal!!



This is
something I
must do!!



Nobody
!!!

Nobody's
gonna take our
freedom away
from us!!!!





Our paths
began in a very
dark tower.



...but
it was
a false
freedom!

We thought
we were freed
by Brain...



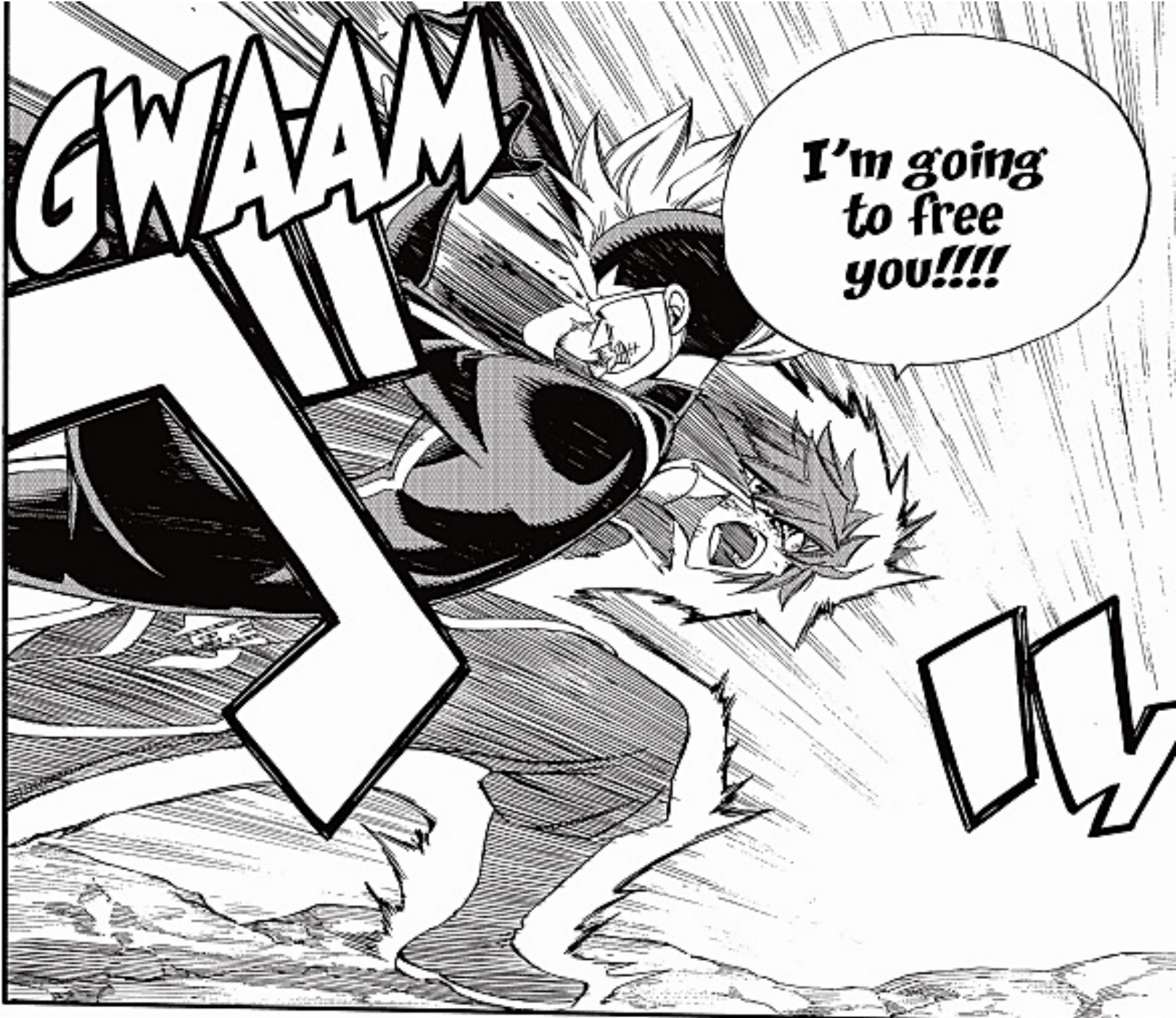
There, we
were nothing
but pawns,
used to bind
Zero.

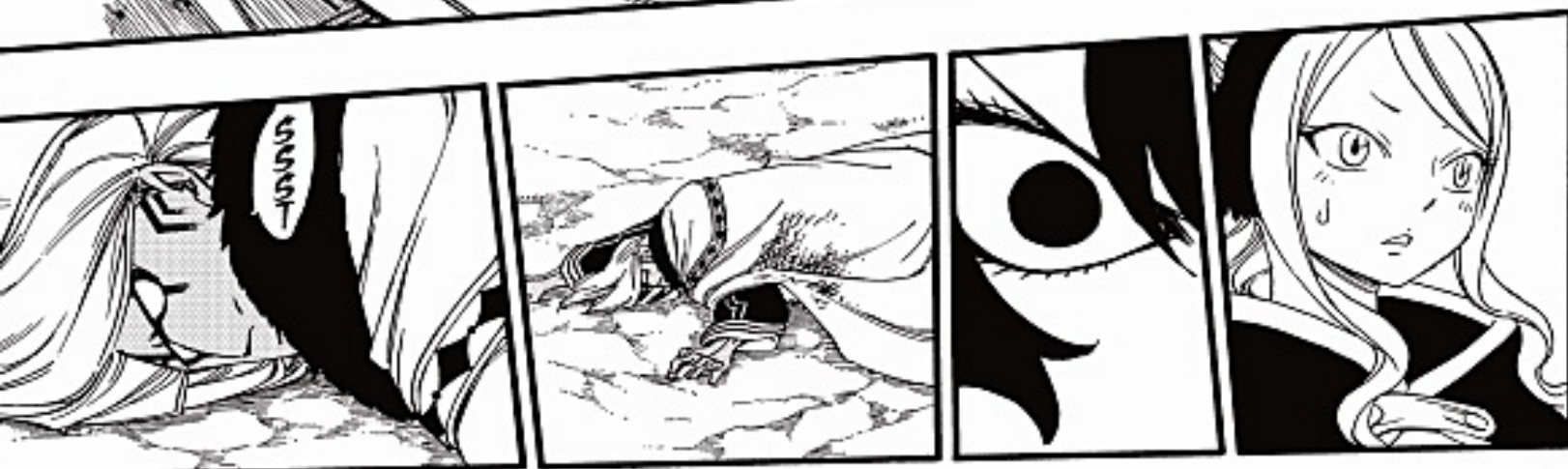
We were
torn away
from our
families
...
...and we
cursed
the
world.

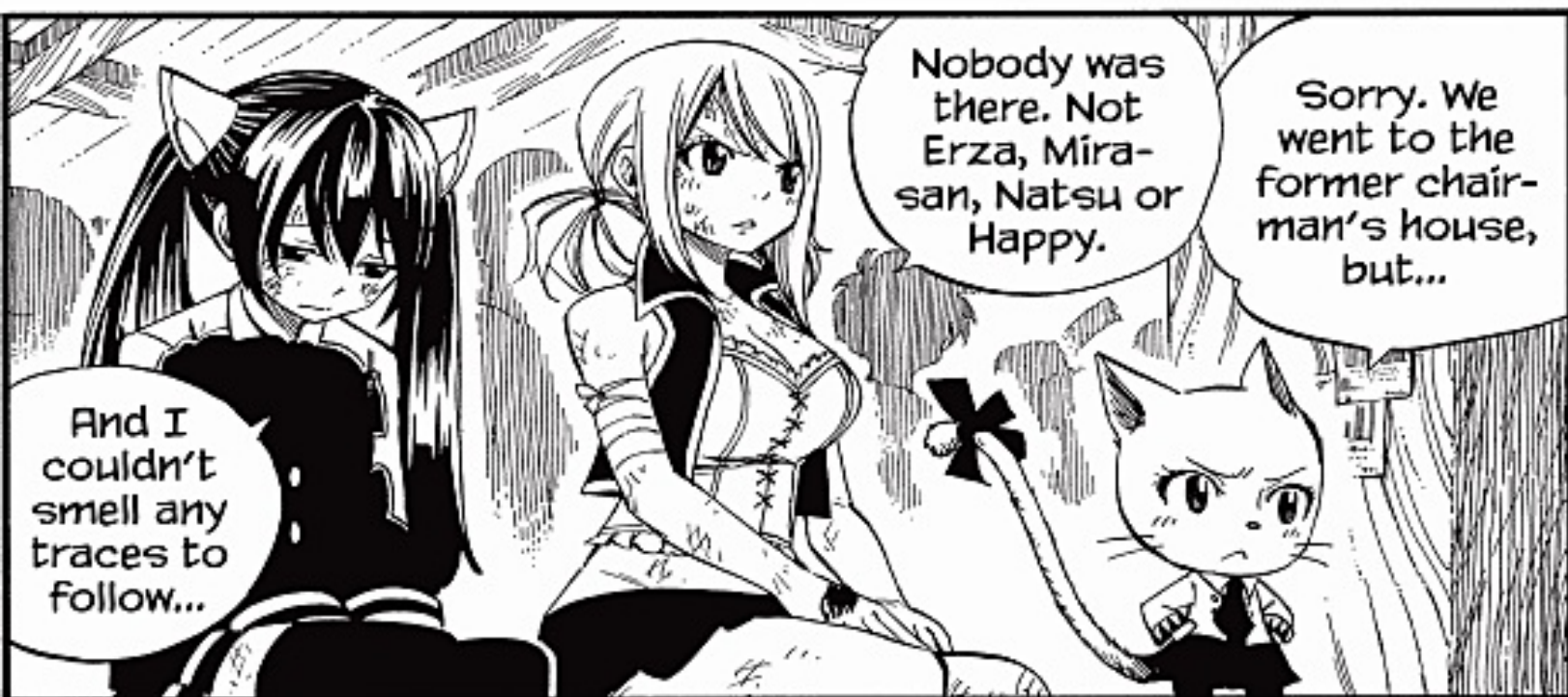
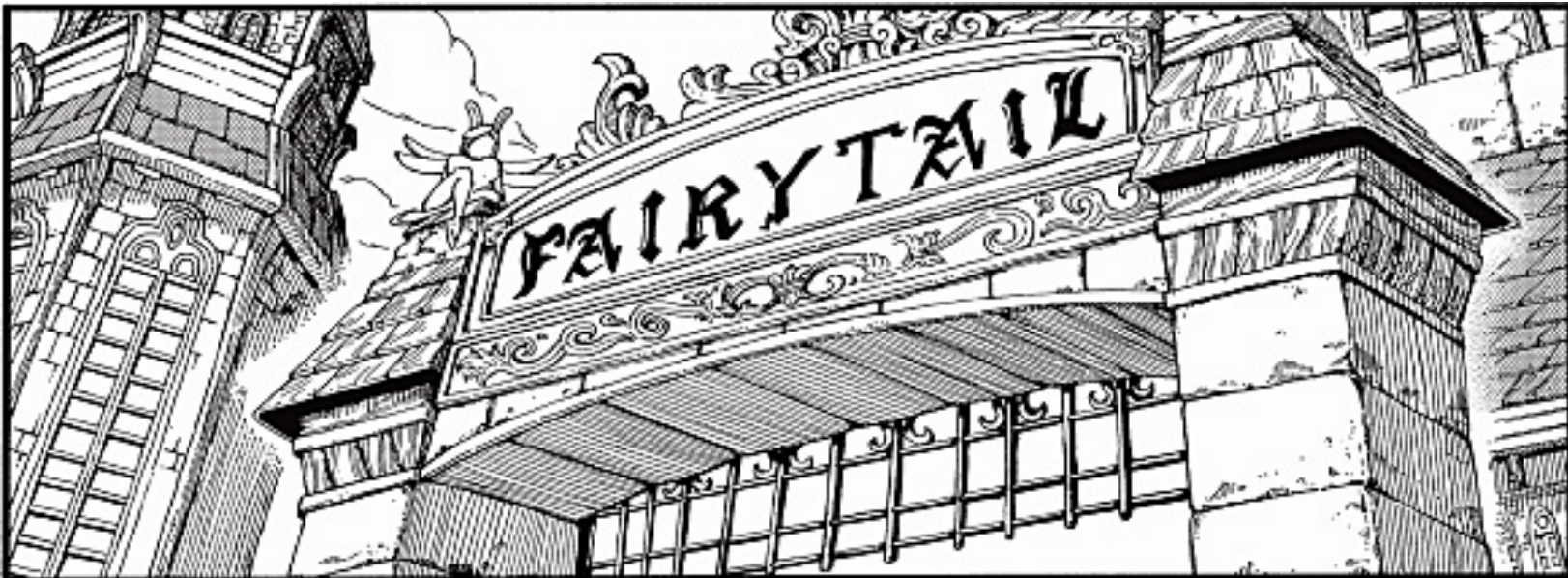


...we
will...

But now...with
true freedom
right before our
eyes...







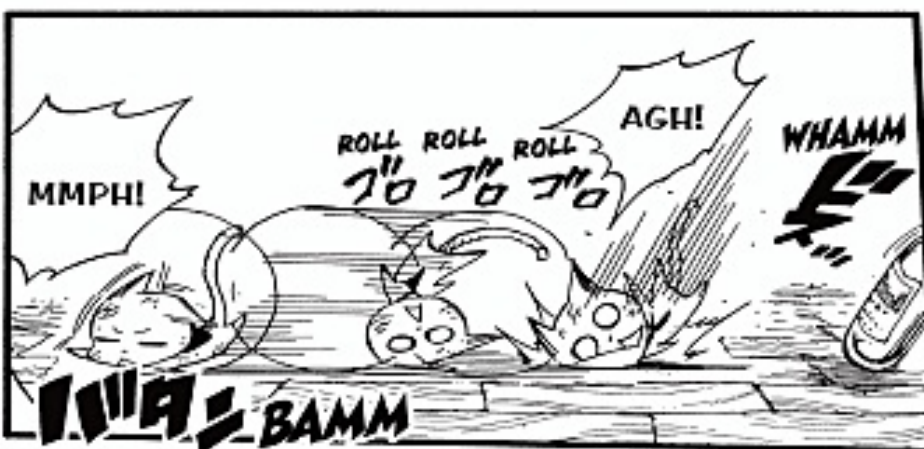




We found
their main
guild hall!!!!



We
found
it!!!



ROLL ROLL ROLL

AGH!

WHAMM

MMPHI

BAMM



Happy!!!!



Aye!!!

Calm
yourself!

SLAP



Erza and
Mira got
captured...!!!

The former
chairman is a
traitor...!!!
And even
Natsu is...!!!
And I...!!!



"Do not
speak that
tainted
name."



?

Oh,
and...

GLANCE
ナツ



How could
Erza and
Mira get
captured...?!

I can't
believe it...
The former
chairman
threw in with
Tartaros...?!

Damn it
!!



Aye!

Happy, now
is no time to
punish yourself.
Tell us about
their base.



I wanted to help him,
but... I was alone, and...
I couldn't... I'm
sorry...



It... It's
nothing.
Natsu's
been cap-
tured...



It's some
weird cube
island in the
sky...

Their
base moves
around.



I... came at it
from this way...
and it was moving
that way...



Happy,
do you know
approximately
where it was and
which way it was
headed?



So even
now, we don't
know its true
location.



It
moves?



I'll find their
location for
you!!!!

I can do
this!!!! I
can calculate
the enemy's
path!!!!

ああ!!!
OH!!



I... left
Natsu back
there...

Right
!!!!

Everybody
else, get
ready
to move
out!!!

Then
get
on it,
Levy!!!



Right?

No, you didn't...
You did your best to
make it back here
fast so we can save
all of them!

Aye.



Huh?
Where's
Lisanna?

You're all
right?!

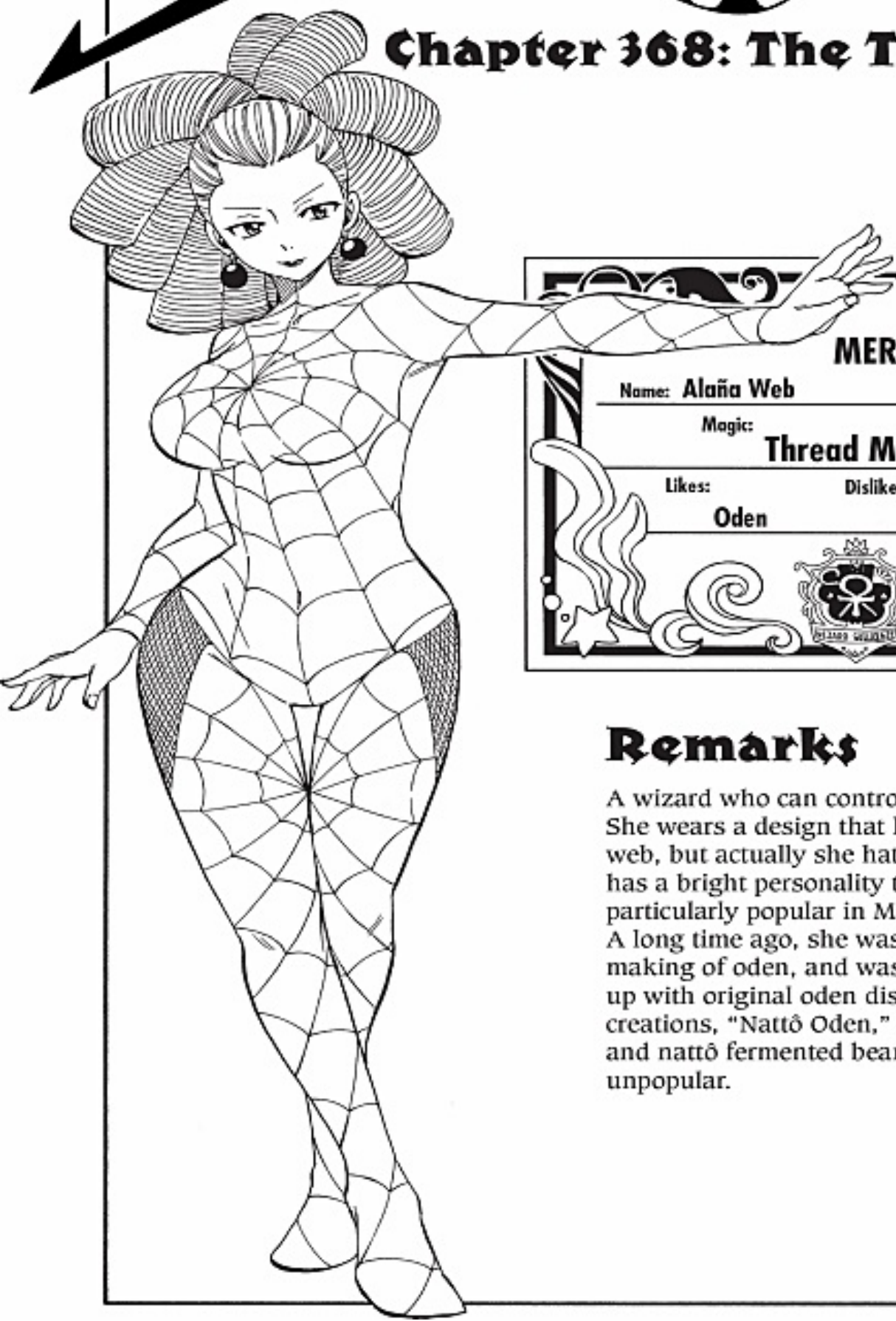
Elfman!!





FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 368: The Third Ward



MERMAID HEEL

Name: Alana Web

Age: 21

Magic:

Thread Magic

Likes:

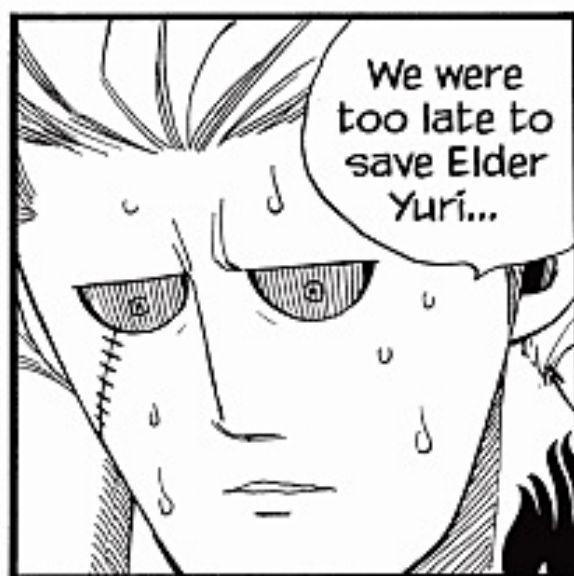
Oden

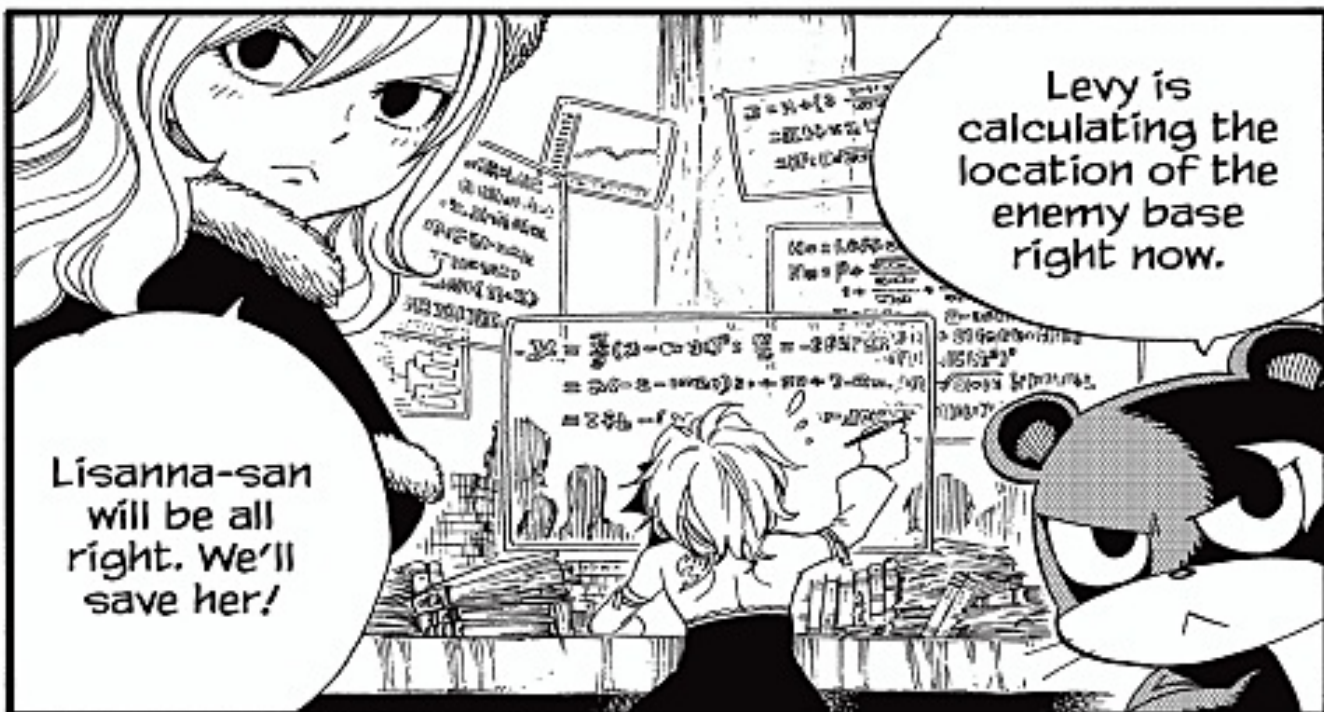
Dislikes:

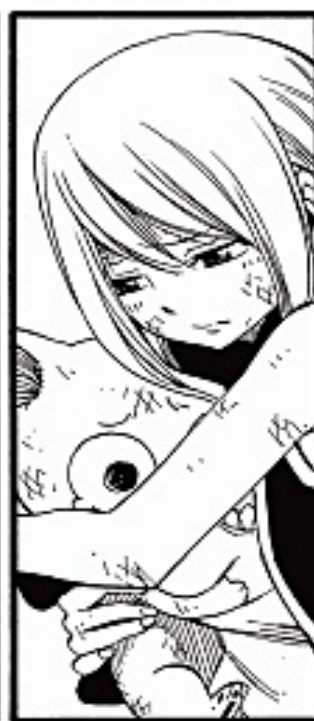
Spiders

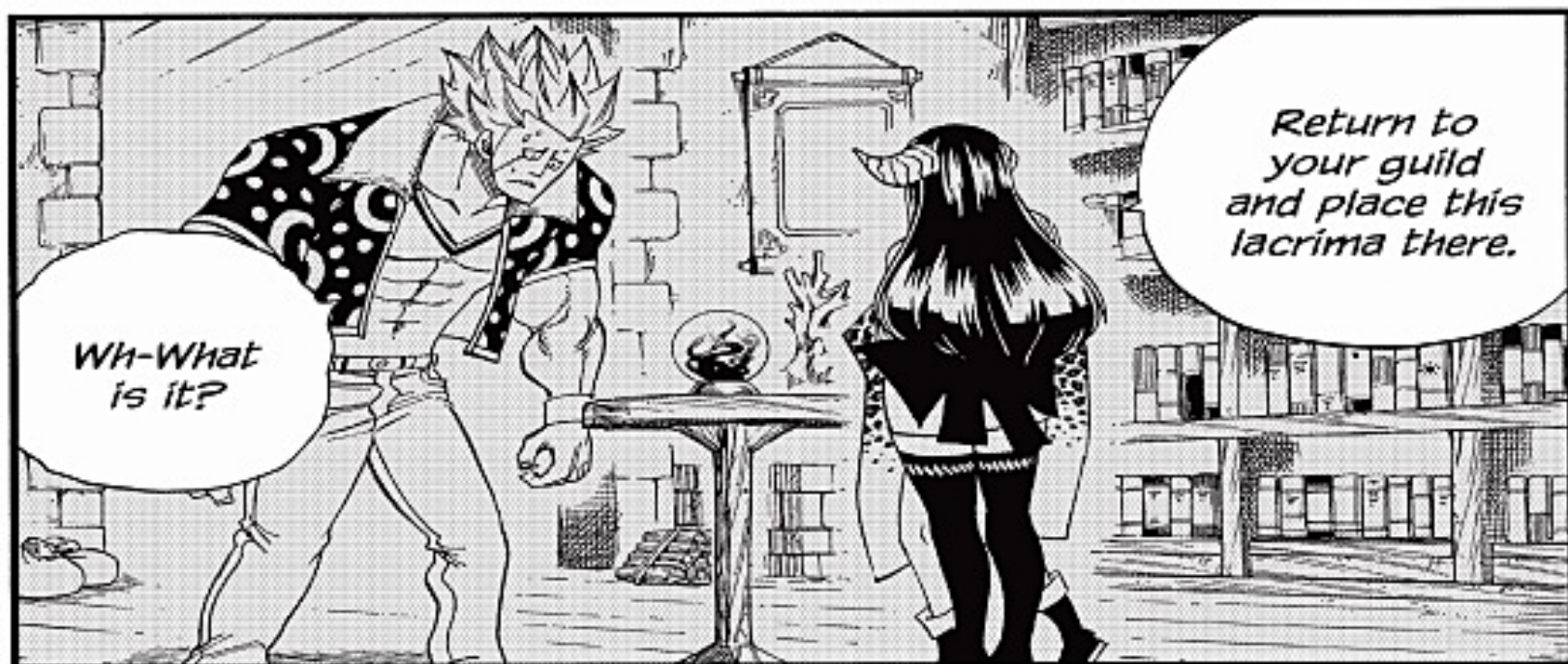
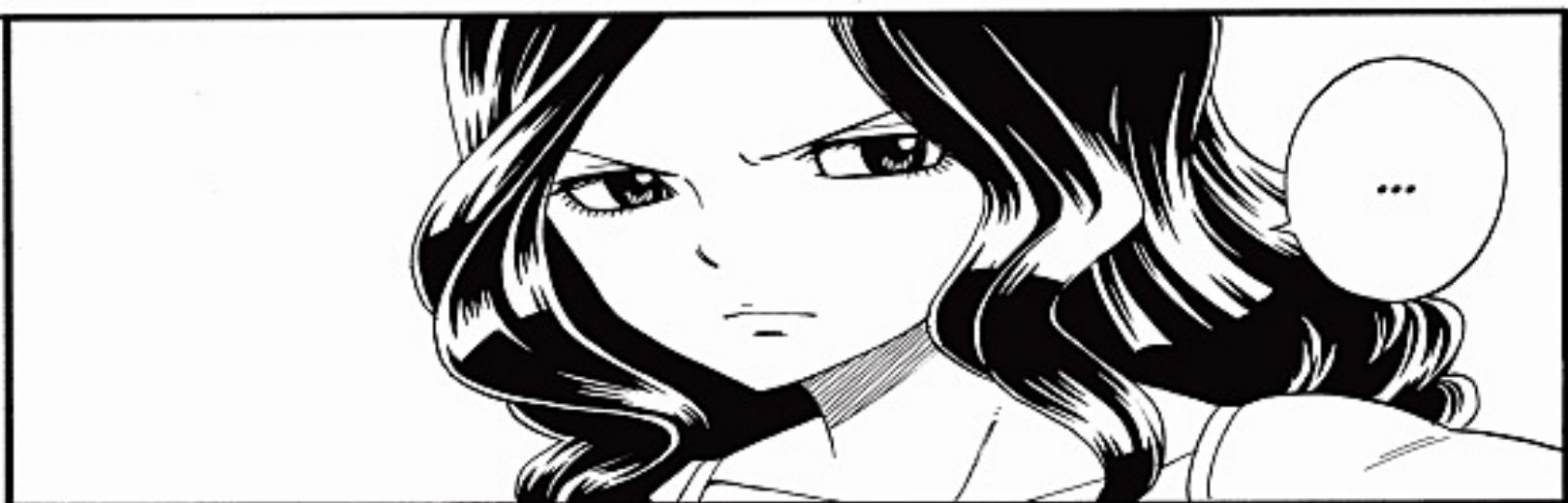
Remarks

A wizard who can control threads at will. She wears a design that looks like a spider's web, but actually she hates spiders. She has a bright personality that's made her particularly popular in Mermaid Heel. A long time ago, she was studying the making of oden, and was trying to come up with original oden dishes. One of her creations, "Nattô Oden," a mixture of oden and nattô fermented beans, was particularly unpopular.











*It's
approximately
500 times
stronger than
the Jupiter
Cannon. It
should wipe out
the guild in an
instant.*

*It emits
highly
concentrated
ether.*

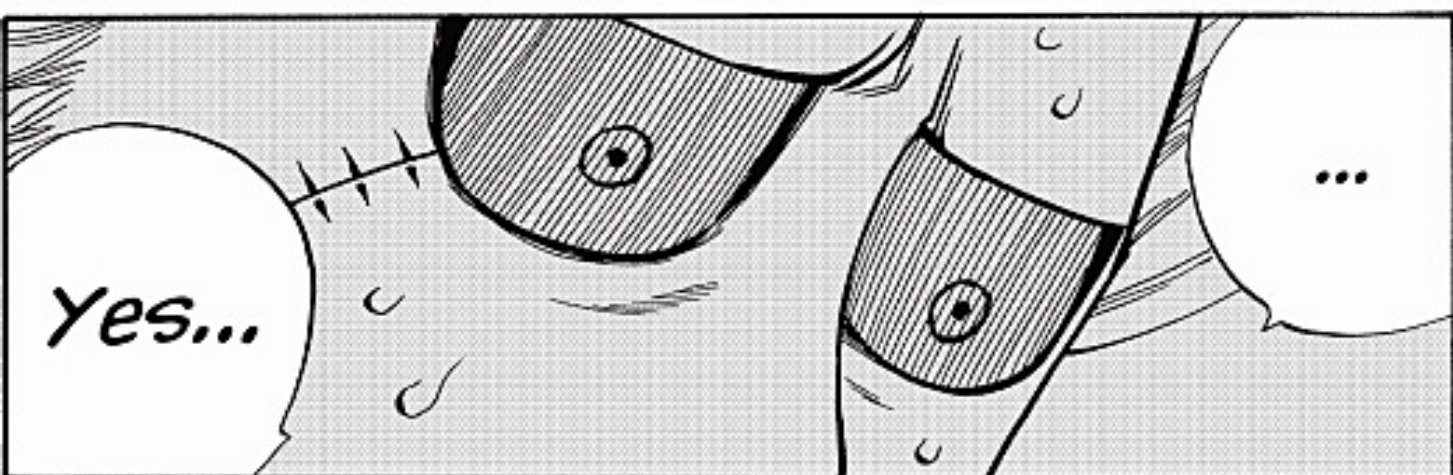


*You will
do it.*



*I
can't do
that...*

*That's
awful...*



Yes...

...



Yeah...



...destroy my own guild!



Keep it up,
Lisanna!

GWRRNNN

Nnnngh!

Don't you *dare* look
in this direction!!!
The pose I have to
take doing this isn't
fit to see!!!

This is hope-
less! They're
too strong to
be broken by
human strength
alone!

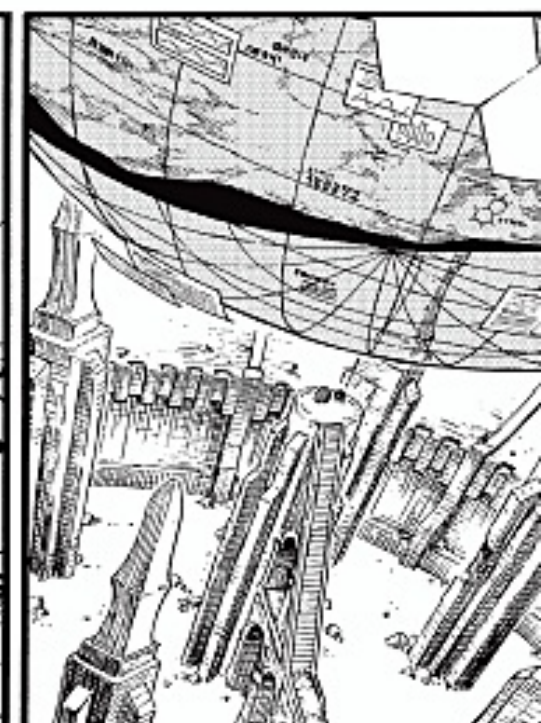
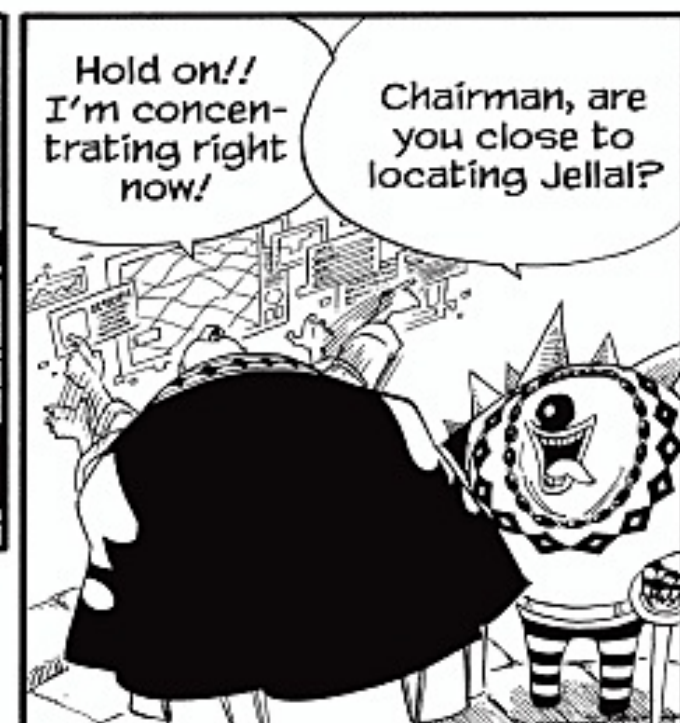
If we could
just get these
shackles off...



I told you
not to look
this way!!

I'll try
yours now!





I'm using my *Super Archive* magic to form a real-time link...

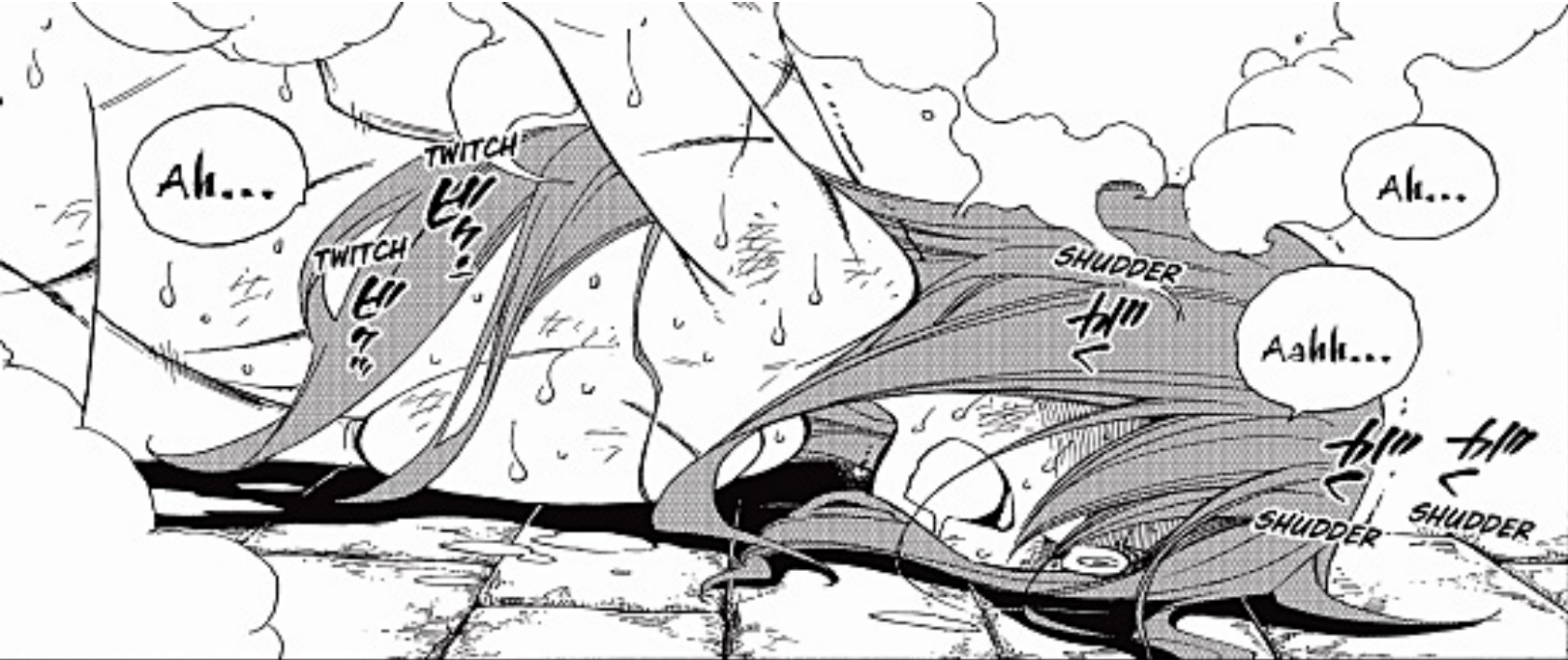
...and do a search of the wizards on the continent.

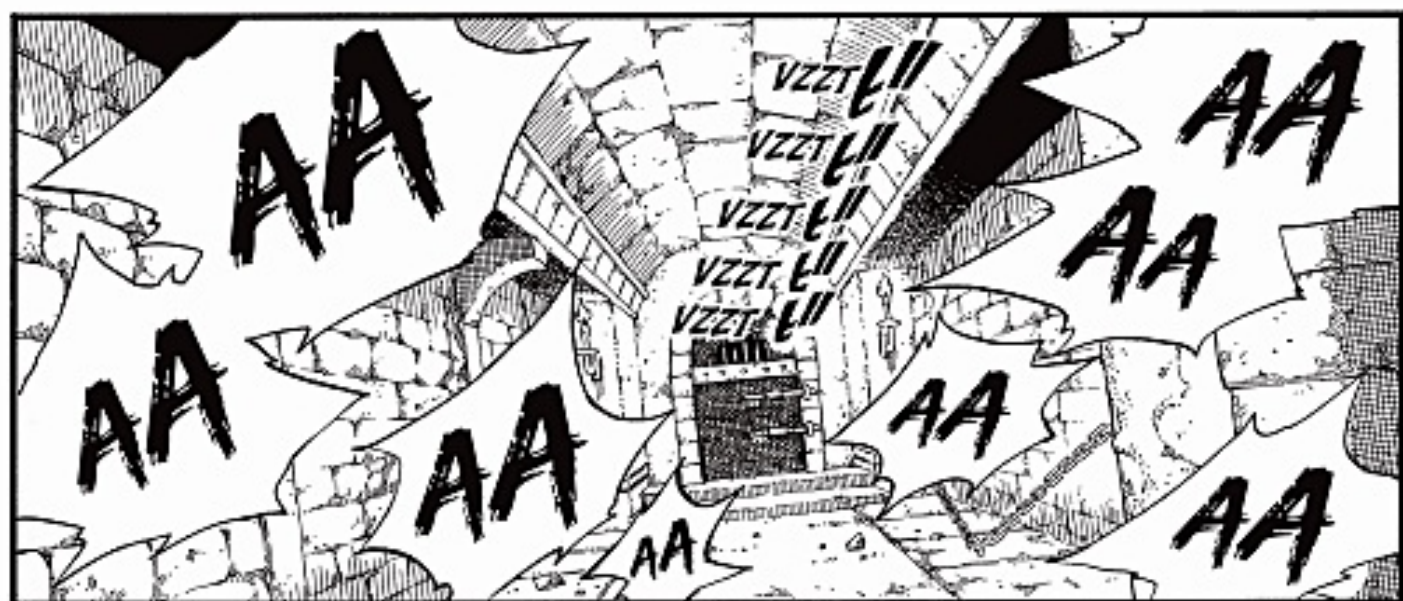
My magic
will find him!
Count on it!

And how much power will that give us? How much?

When Jellal is dead, then we can start up Face!



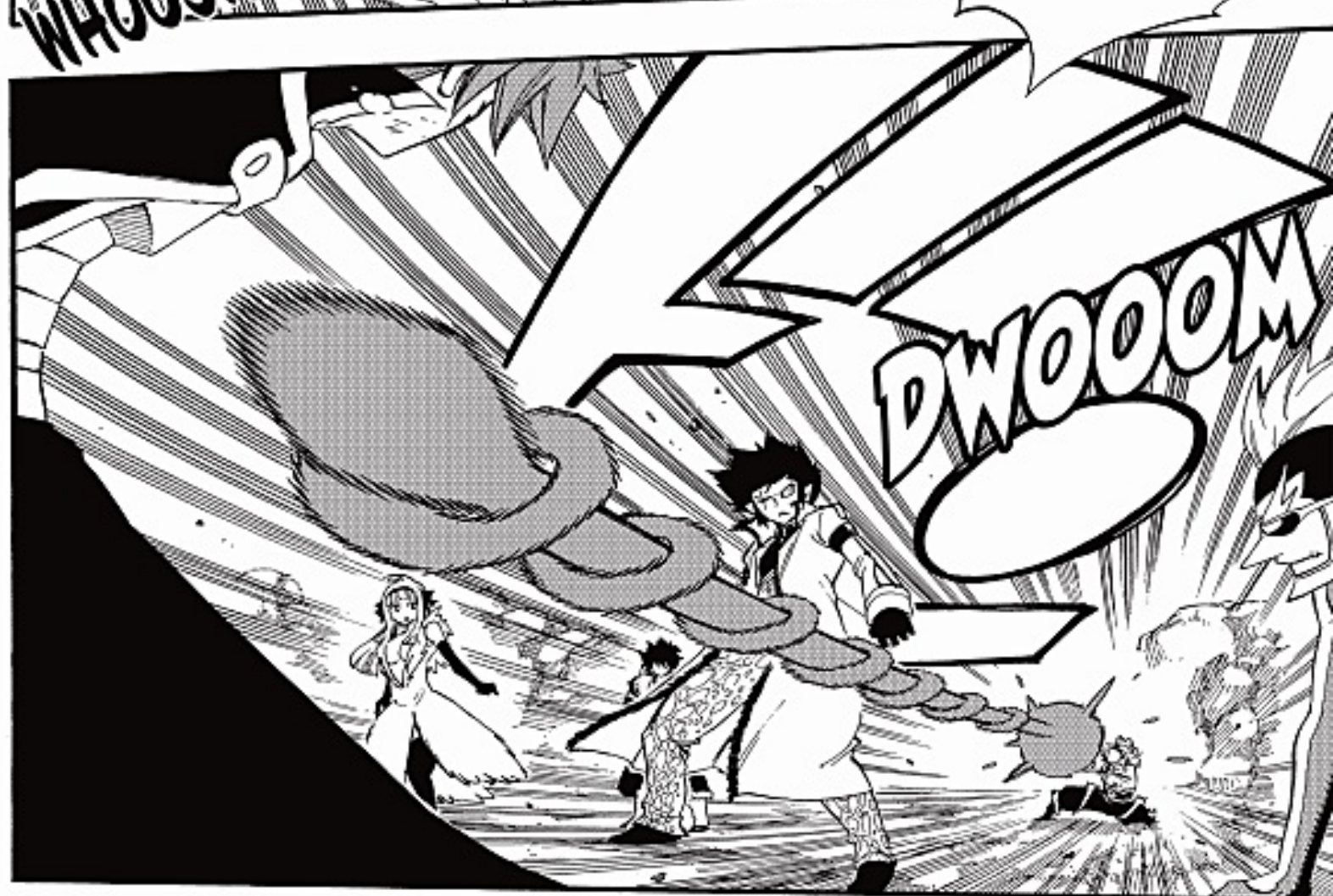








The one
to vanish
will be you,
Jellal!!!!



The
creep
is still
alive?!



When did
his wards
get...



Zero?!







It isn't
over
yet!

Never
!!!



Merudy...
get out of
here...



No!! Jellal,
I can't just
leave you
here!!!



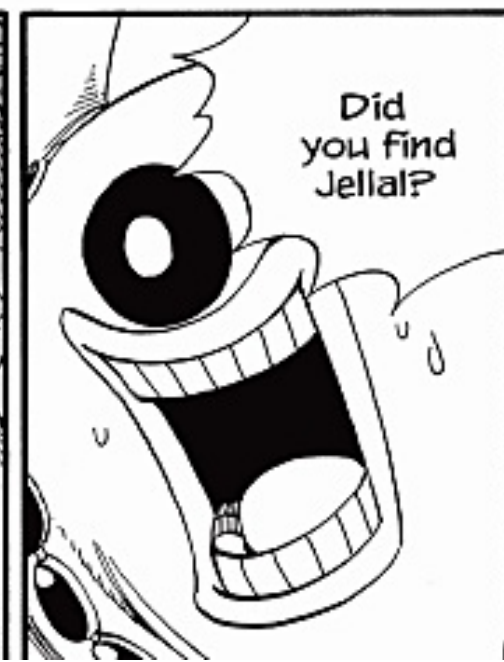
Run...



We
are...

Yeah...

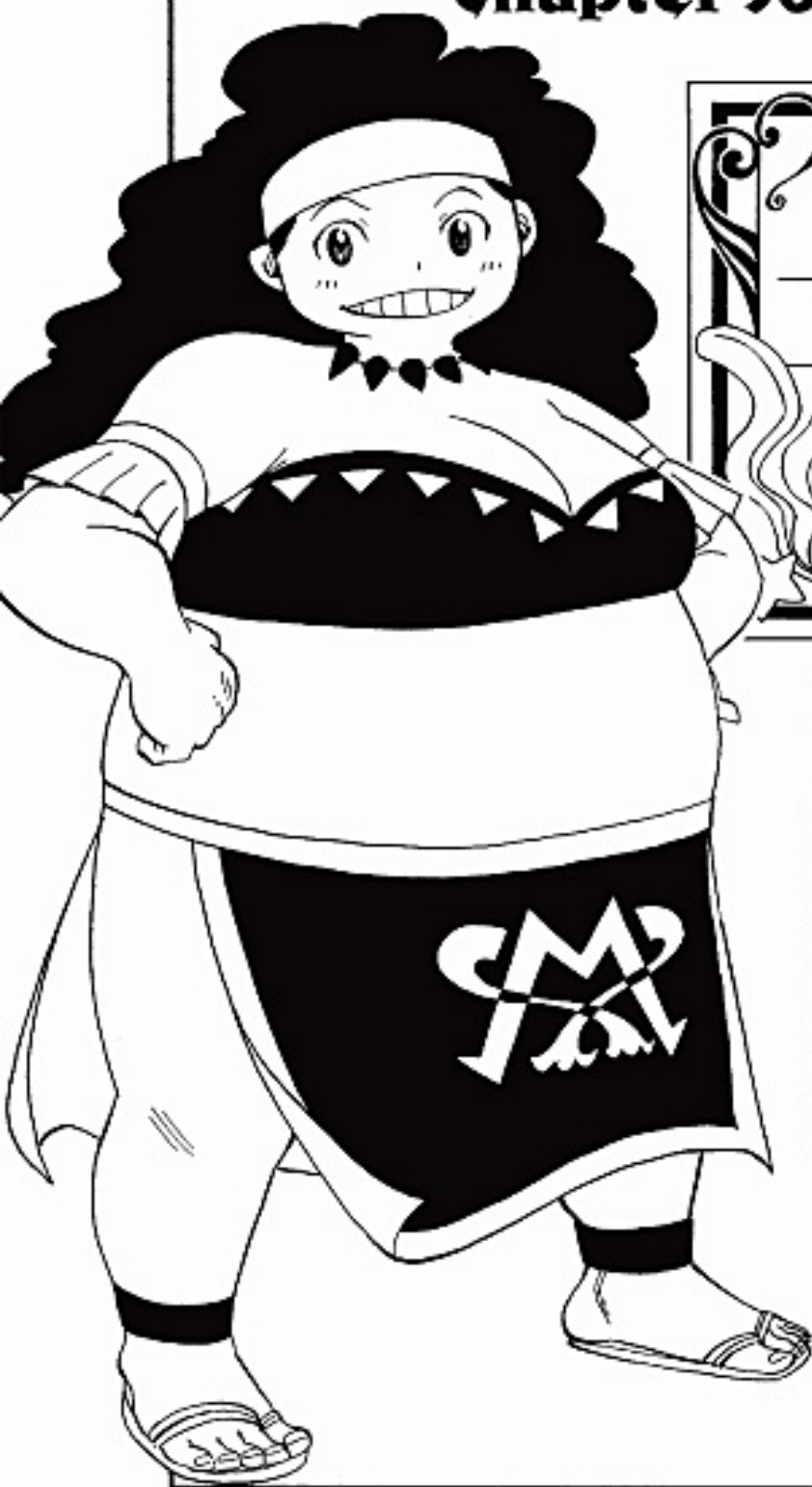




FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 369: Where Prayers Go



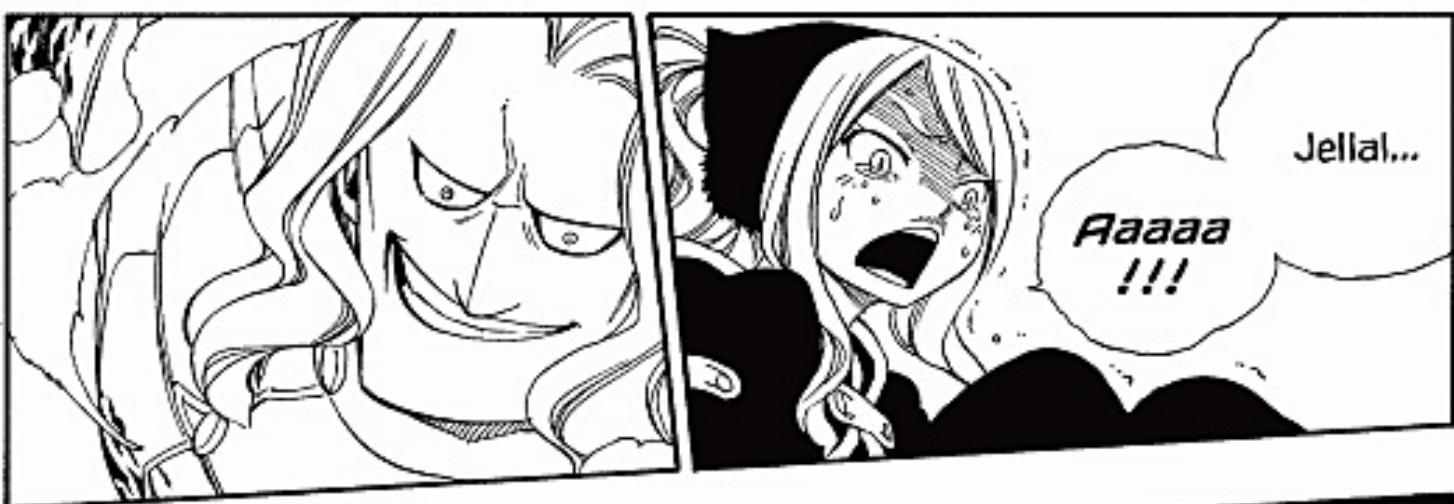
MERMAID HEEL	
Name: Lisie Law	Age: 24
Magic: Gravity Change	
Likes: Her guild	Dislikes: High heels

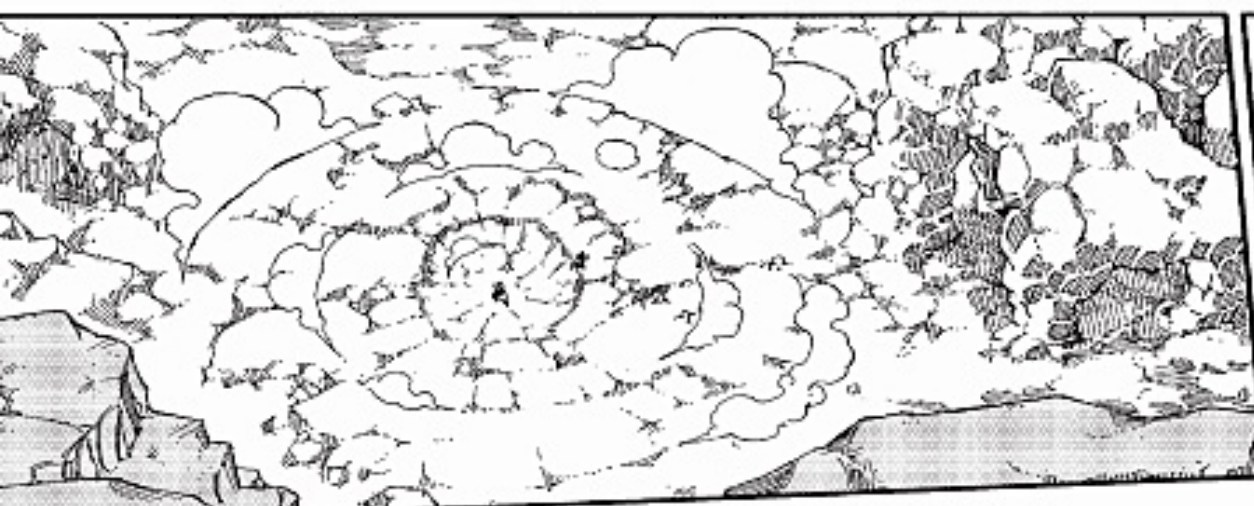
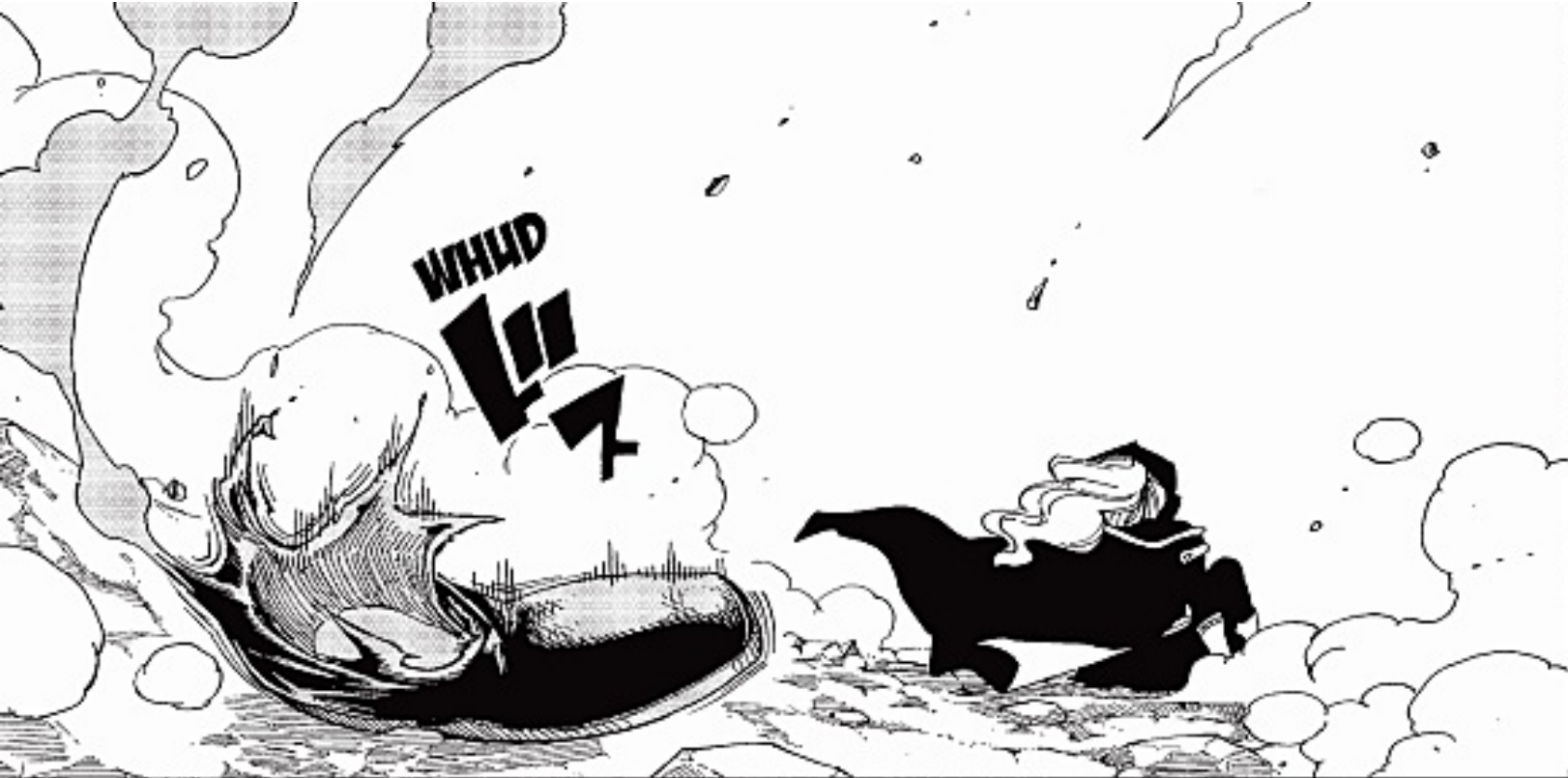


Remarks

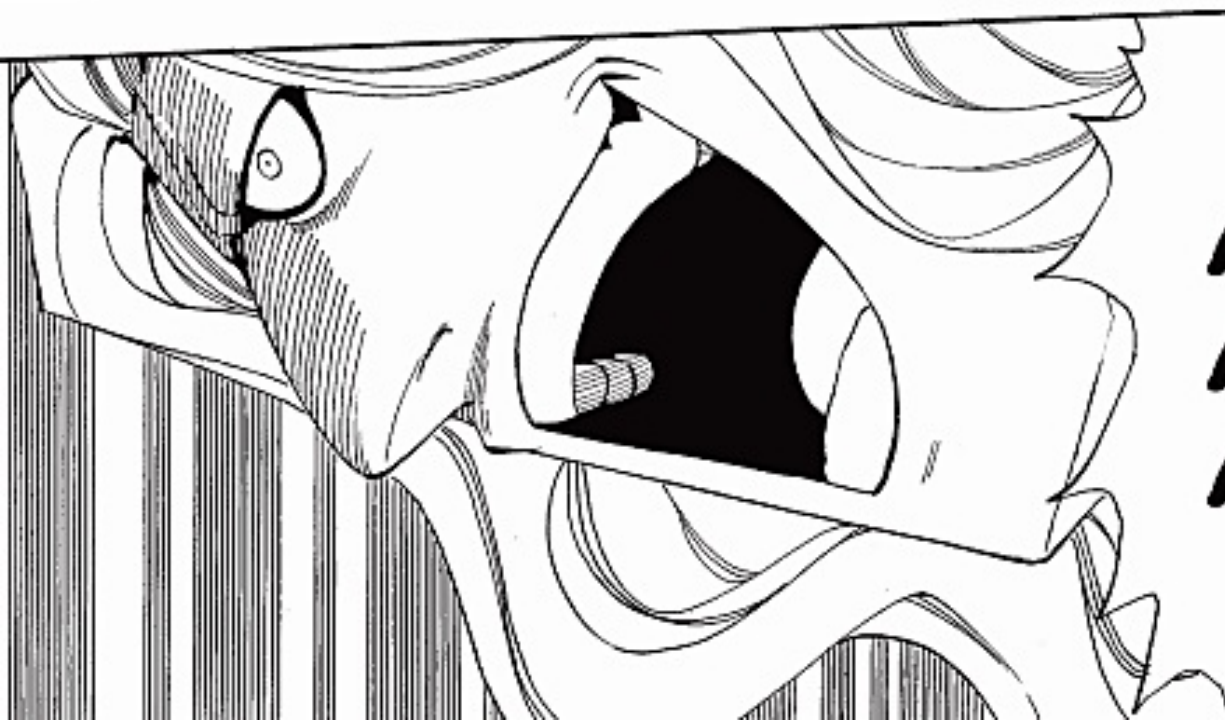
A plus-size young woman. The rest of her guild sees her as a maternal figure because of her outward appearance and calm demeanor. Outside the guild too, some think she's the motherly type, but she's unmarried and has no children.

With her Gravity Change magic, she can turn herself into a slim girl with the proportions of a model, but she likes her plump body as it is.





He wiped
him out of
existence...



**Ah
ha ha
ha ha
ha ha
ha!!**







Not possible!!!



No way...



You did it by shutting your eyes ...?!



When did he have the chance to...

A Magic pattern!!!

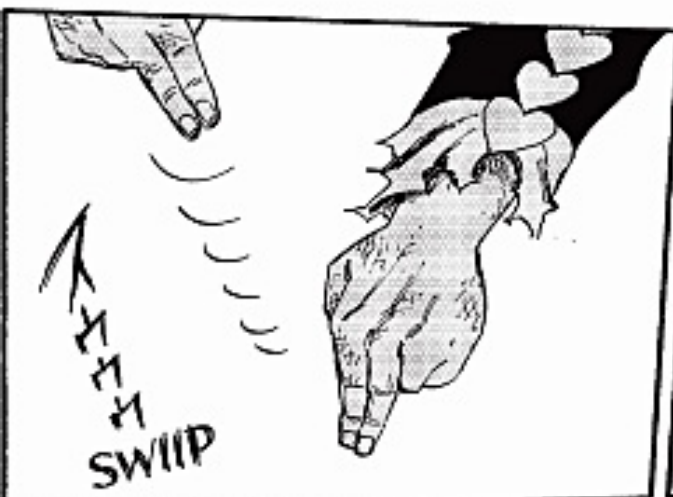


What is this...?!

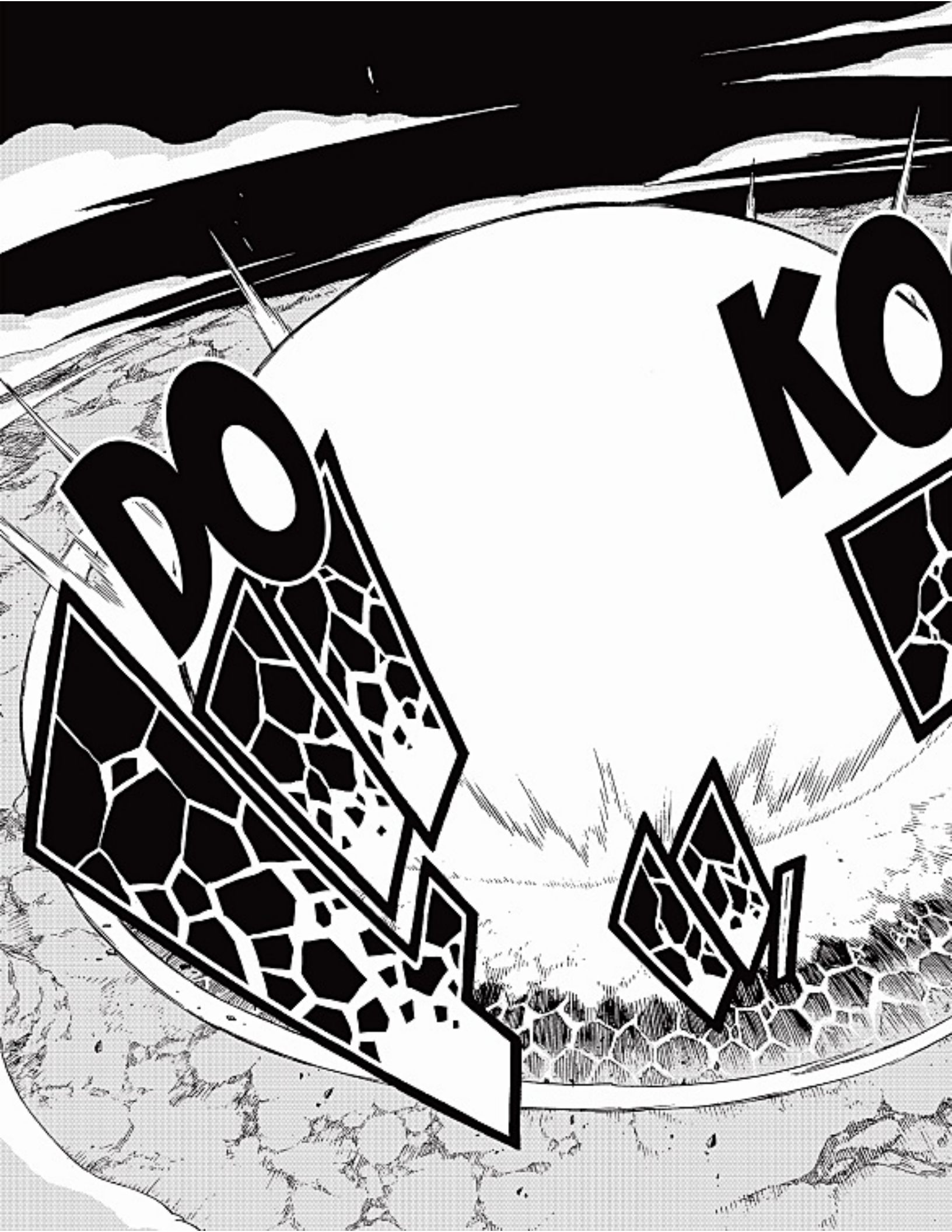
You will be judged by the Seven Stars!

GO GO GO GO GO

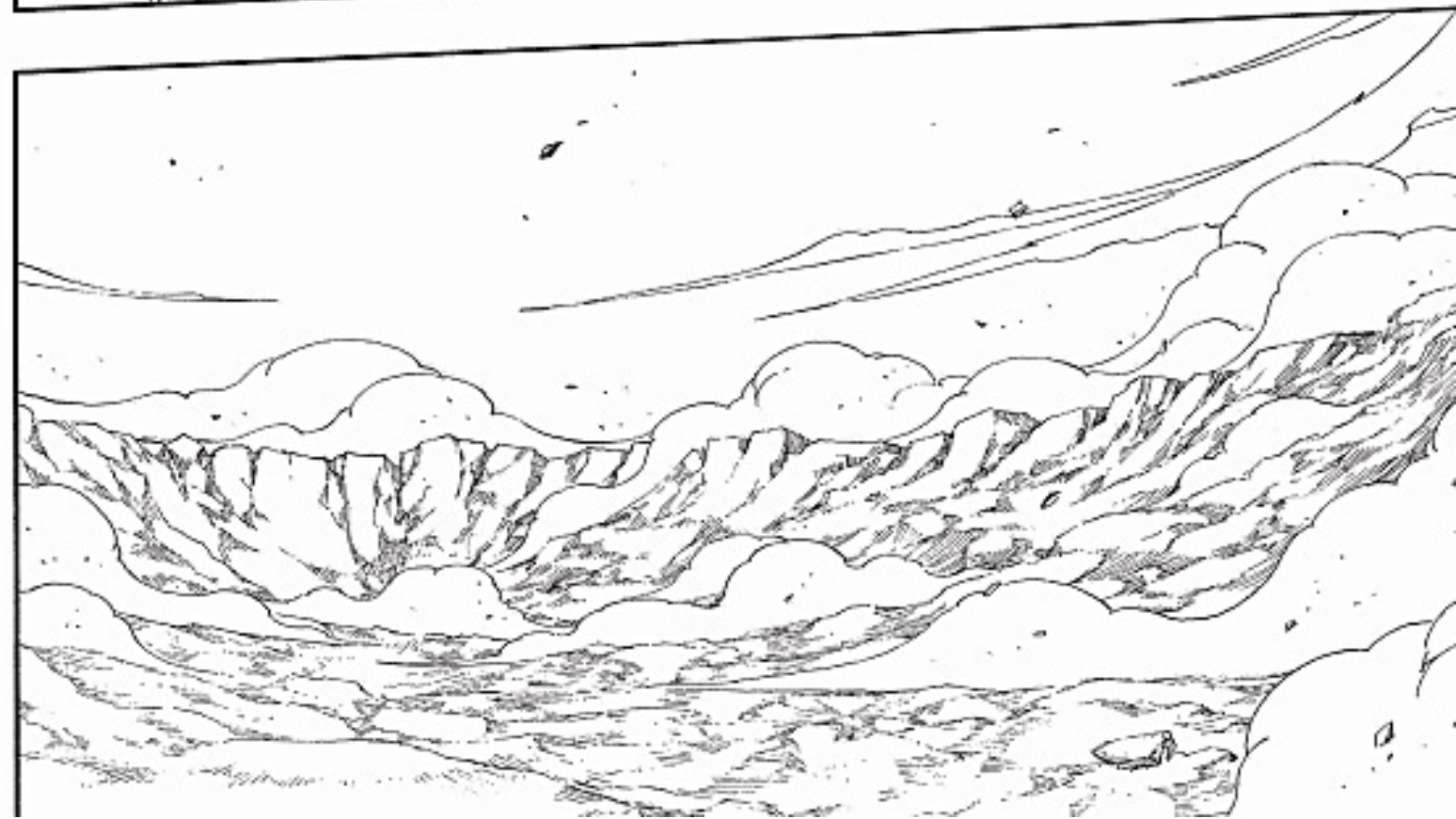
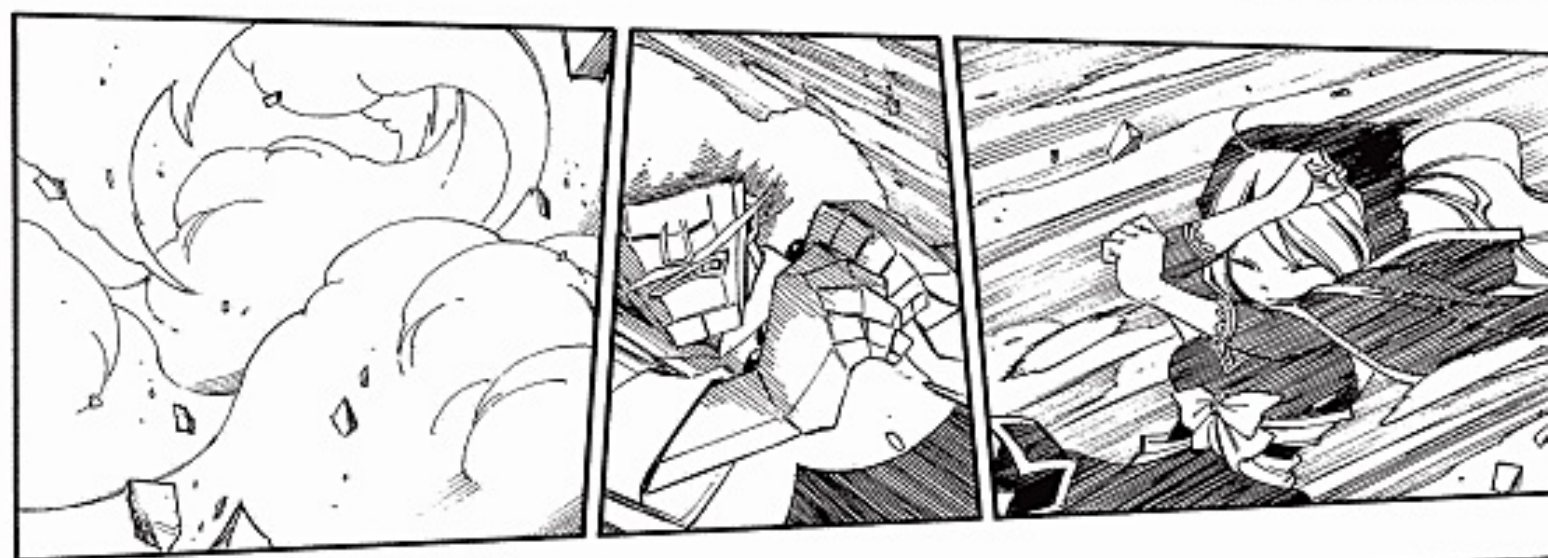
GRAND
CHARIOT
!!!!

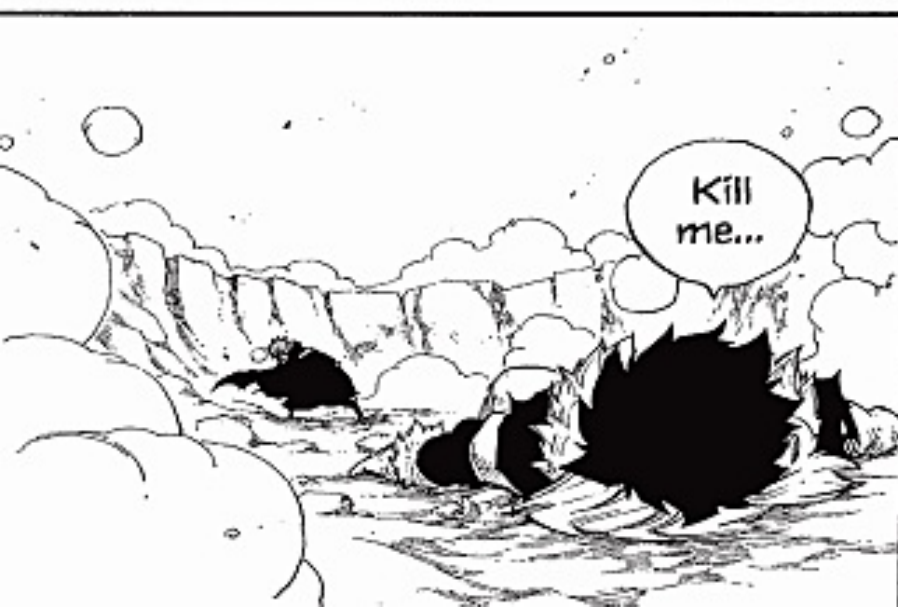














No.



Then
you're...

...going
to throw
us back
in jail...?



I'm not
going to
do that.



... our
independent
guild, *Crime
Sorcière*.

*I want you
to join...*



We both
have the
same enemy
to fight.



But...
there is
something
that must
be done to
ensure that.



I'll make
sure your
prayers are
fulfilled.

That is a
promise.



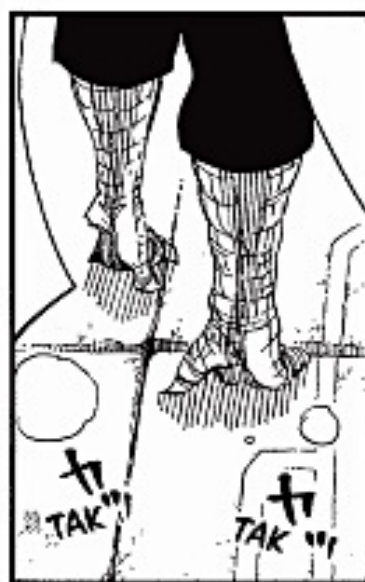
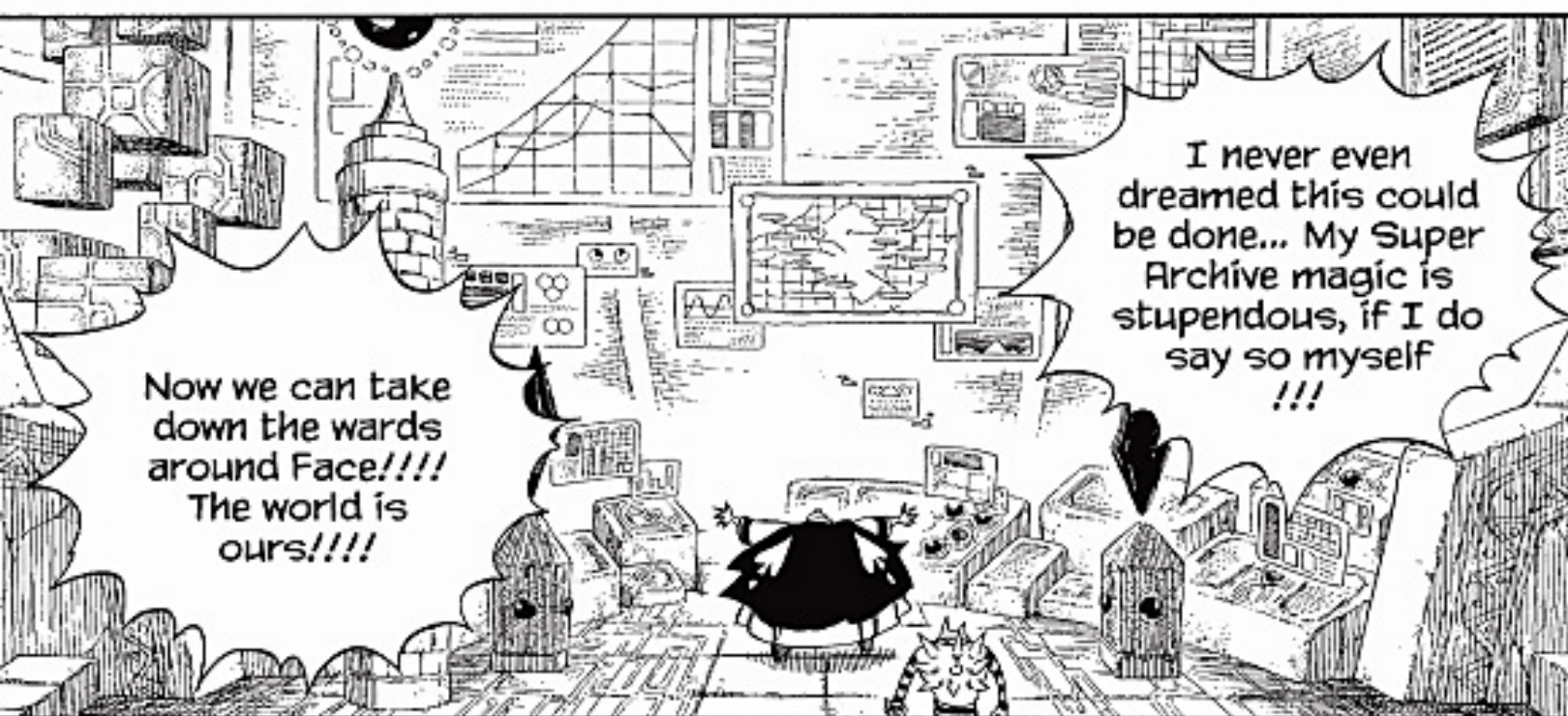
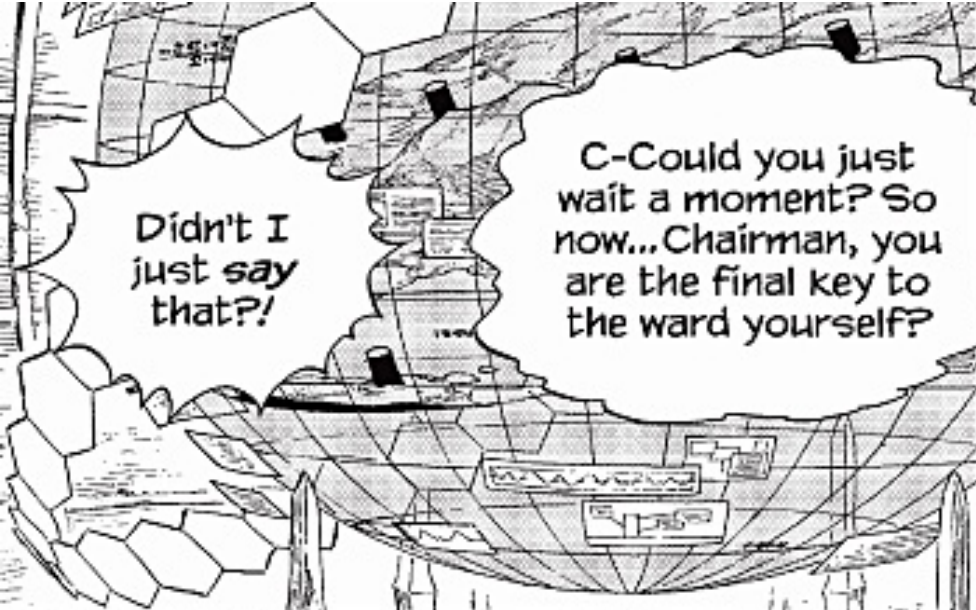
Eh?

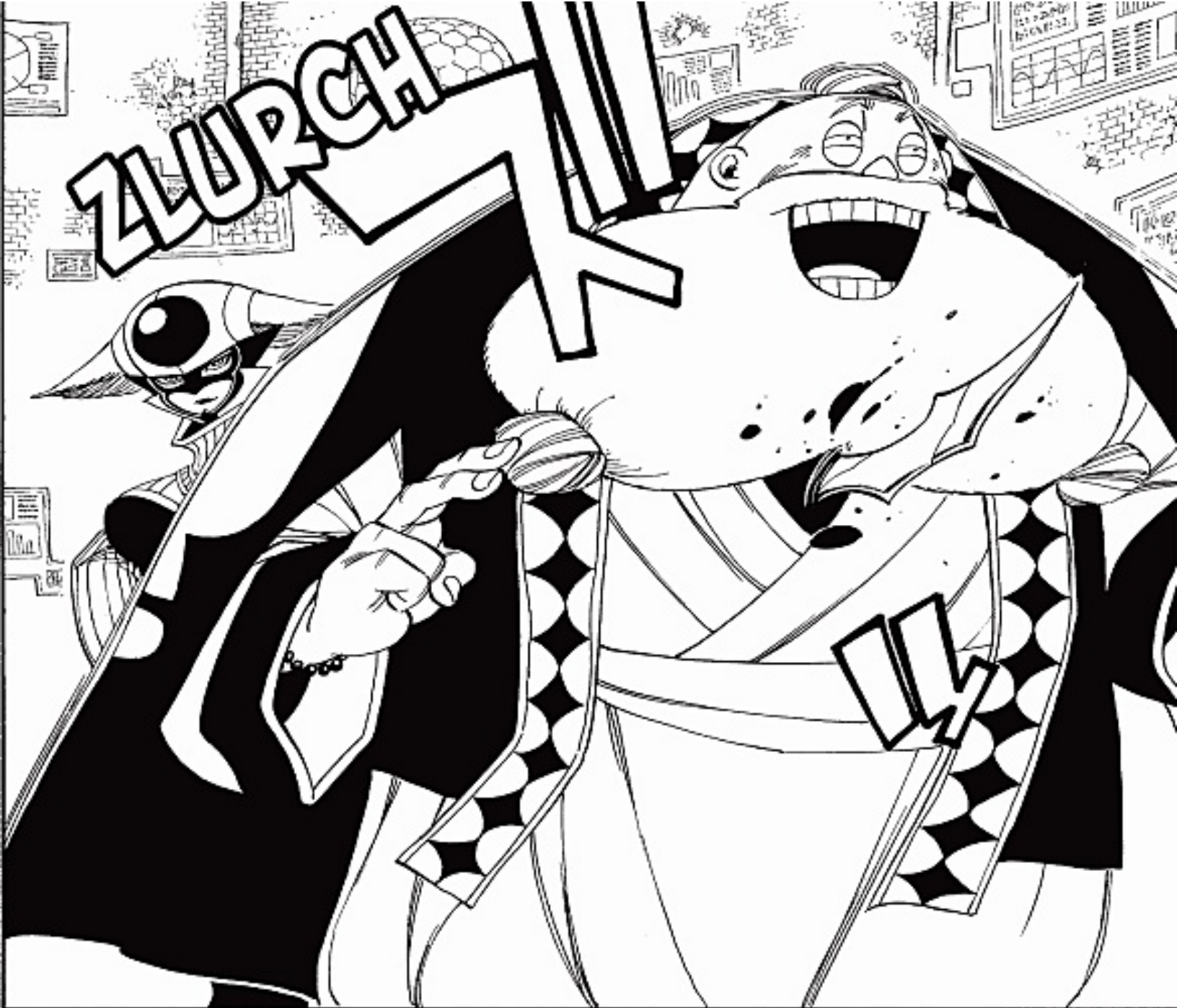




***I want us to
act together
to take down
Zeref!***











The wards
on Face
have been
vanquished.

Even
the Cube
reacts.



Mira...
Elf...

Are you
all right,
Lisanna?!



I love
you!

Lisanna...



あとがき

Afterword

This time, because of the limitations of the number of pages allowed in the book, there are hardly any bonus pages. I'm sorry! Over and above that, I'm far more busy than I would have believed! Even apart from drawing a weekly manga, I've got to solve problem after problem... Hyaaaahh!! But on a personal note, I'm really into the Tartaros Arc this time, and I'm getting all sorts of ideas piling on top of each other. There are some real surprising plot twists coming up, so be sure to look for them!

Now I think I've written about this somewhere before, but I'm not doing any of the drawing for the anime. There are a lot of animators putting in tons of hours and sweat to make it, and I really respect the work they're doing. They're taking pictures I only drew once and making them move, drawing picture after picture, and adding color until you get the feeling that the characters are alive! It's really incredible!

For that reason, instead of sending your impressions of the anime to the Magazine editorial department or through Twitter to myself, if you could send those impressions directly to the anime studio, I think that will help to cheer up and inspire all the the guys doing so much work! Please consider that, okay?

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

43

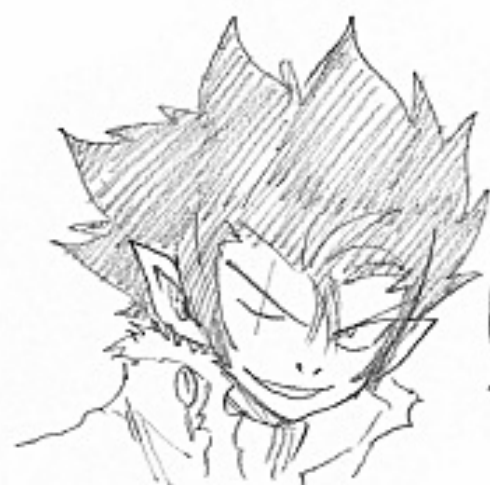
FAIRY TAIL

43

YOU
SAY...YOU
LOST THE
COVER?!

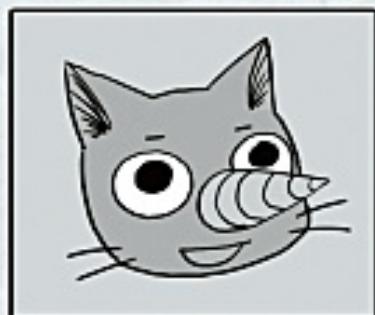
WAAHH

HIRO 真島ヒロ MASHIRO



I CAN HEAR IT...
I CAN HEAR THE
VOICE OF A MAN WHO
LOST A COVER, AND
IT'S CRYING...

FROM HIRO MASHIMA



I went to the Fairy Tail event called the Dragon King Festival 2014. I'm really not good at standing in front of crowds, but since the anime was starting up again after a year, I took part in the event. Since I was able to talk to the fans directly, I thought the event was incredibly fun! I hope there's a Dragon King Festival 2015!

Translation Notes:

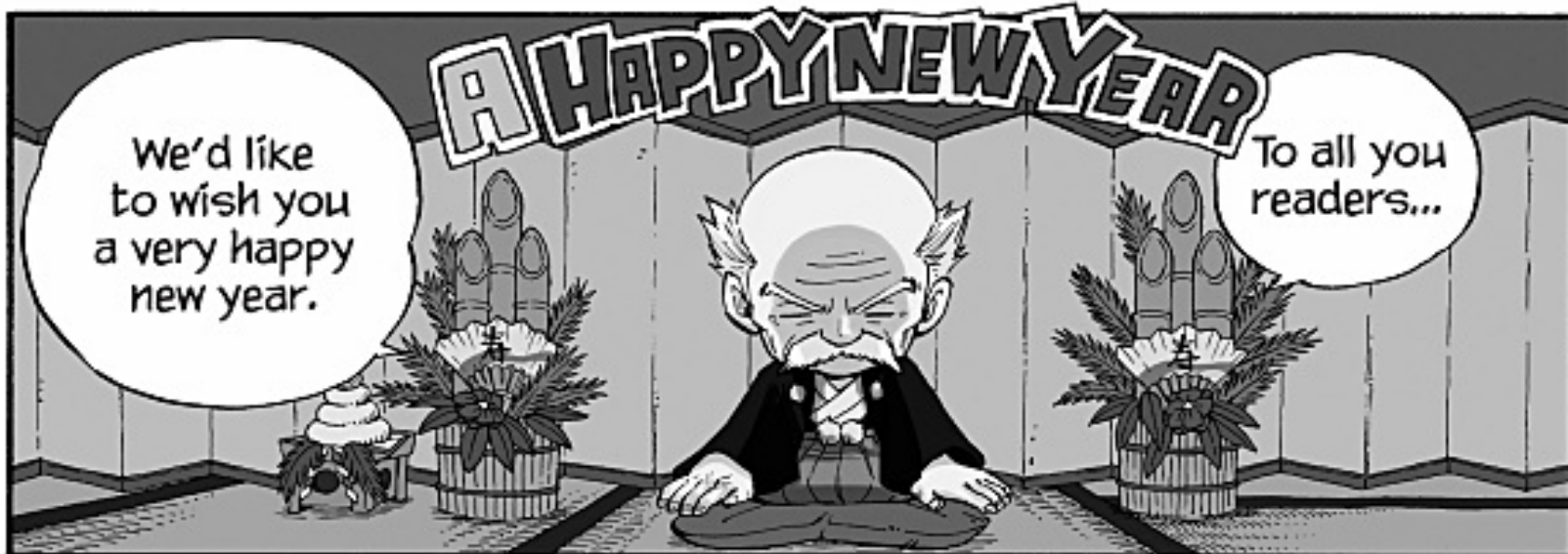
Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Page 38, Magical Pulse Bomb

This is probably based on the Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) that is said to occur when a nuclear device is activated. These have been later developed into "pulse weapons" that may use nuclear or non-nuclear methods of generating the pulse. Although a real pulse may cause damage aside from shutting down electronic devices (and in reality, not necessarily all electronic devices are affected), in fiction the pulse simply shuts down all electric and electronic devices for a period of time (for example, as used in the movie *Ocean's Eleven*) causing no other damage.

Page 77, New Years

There are several common trappings of Japanese New Year's celebrations on this page. The three bamboo stalks with a garland of pine is usually a decoration placed outside one's front door, but at times it is placed as an interior decoration. Similarly, the gift tray to the left of the bamboo decoration has a traditional set of three *mochi* (rice paste) cakes topped by a mandarin orange. The *mochi* decoration is place just inside the entrance. The folding screen and *tatami* mats (rush mats) are not especially decorative, but rather found in most traditional Japanese homes. Natsu, Master Makarov, Happy, Mirajane, Wendy, and Lucy are all wearing traditional Japanese clothes commonly worn on a first visit to a temple or shrine during New Year's (although normal clothes are perfectly acceptable).



Page 151, Oden

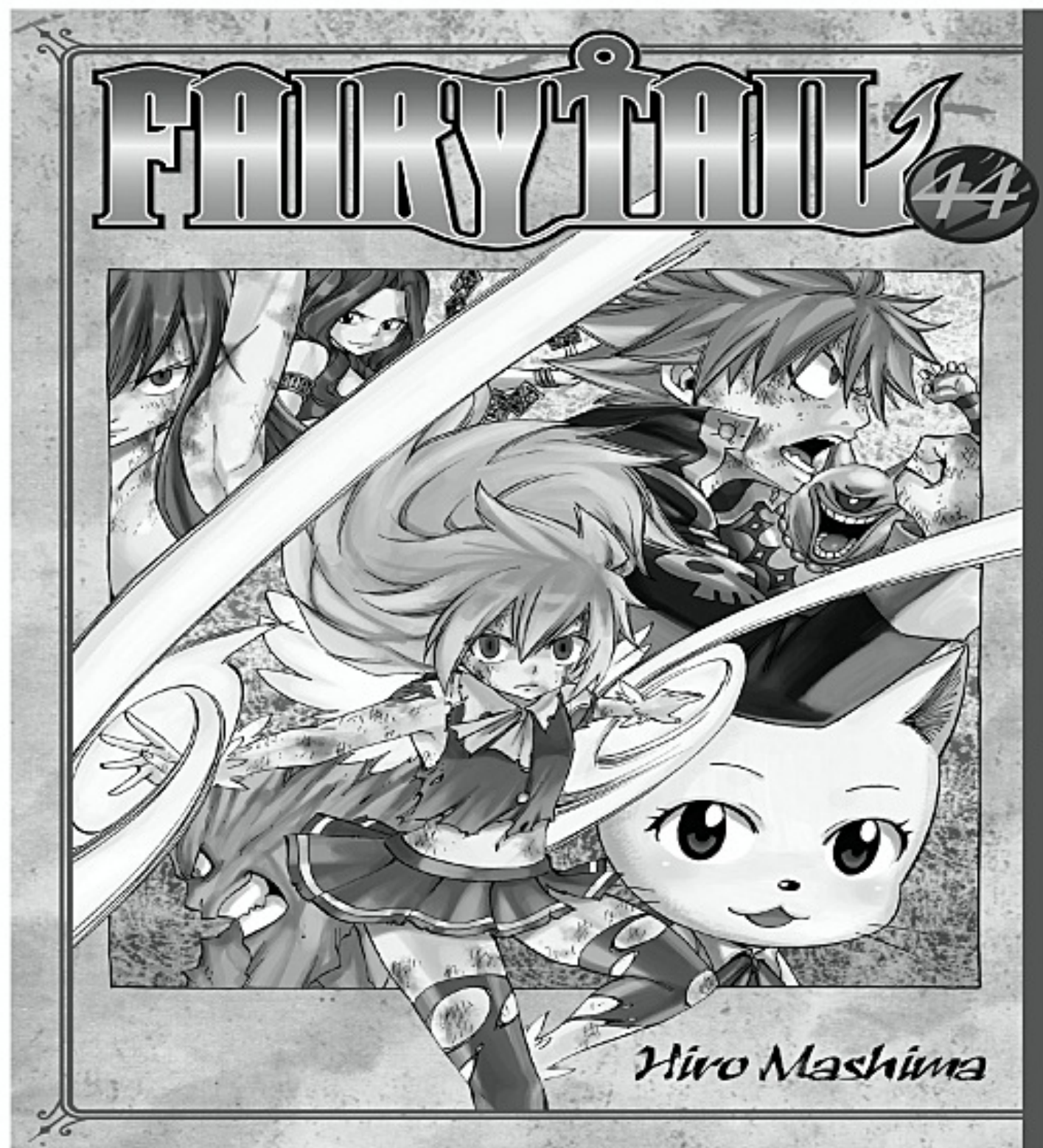
An inexpensive stew, subtly flavored. It can feature fish, tofu, squid, octopus, *mochi* (rice paste), seaweed, chicken, dumplings, eggs, radishes, potatoes, and other meats, vegetables, and concoctions. Although it is a stew, the elements (meat and veggies) are usually skewered on kabob-like sticks for easy access. Oden is served in restaurants, but more commonly in convenience stores and sidewalk stalls.

Page 151, Nattô

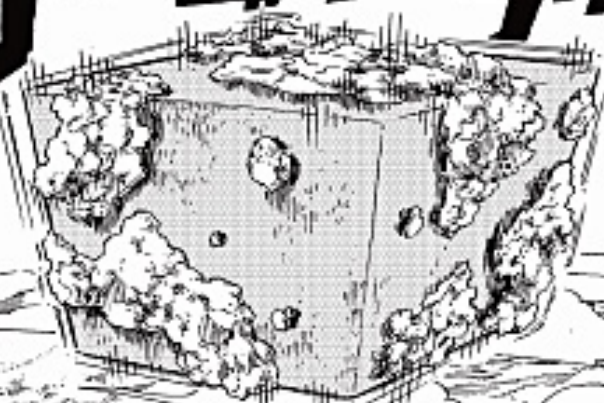
As mentioned in the notes for Volume 8, nattô is a strong-smelling fermented soybean dish in which beans are connected by a viscous, stringy fluid. The dish is very nutritious, and it contains nattokinase, a fibrinolytic enzyme which is said to prevent clotting in the arteries. Still, nattô has a reputation for being loved by Japanese and hated by foreigners (although there are foreign nattô lovers and Japanese detractors).

Preview of *Fairy Tail*, volume 44

We're pleased to present you with a preview from *Fairy Tail*, volume 44, now available digitally from Kodansha Comics. Check our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for details!



SHUDD
SHUDD
SHUDD



Natsu,
look!!

!!

KAWHAM

GWAH!

Kyaa...

SLAM

KACHIK

CLATTR

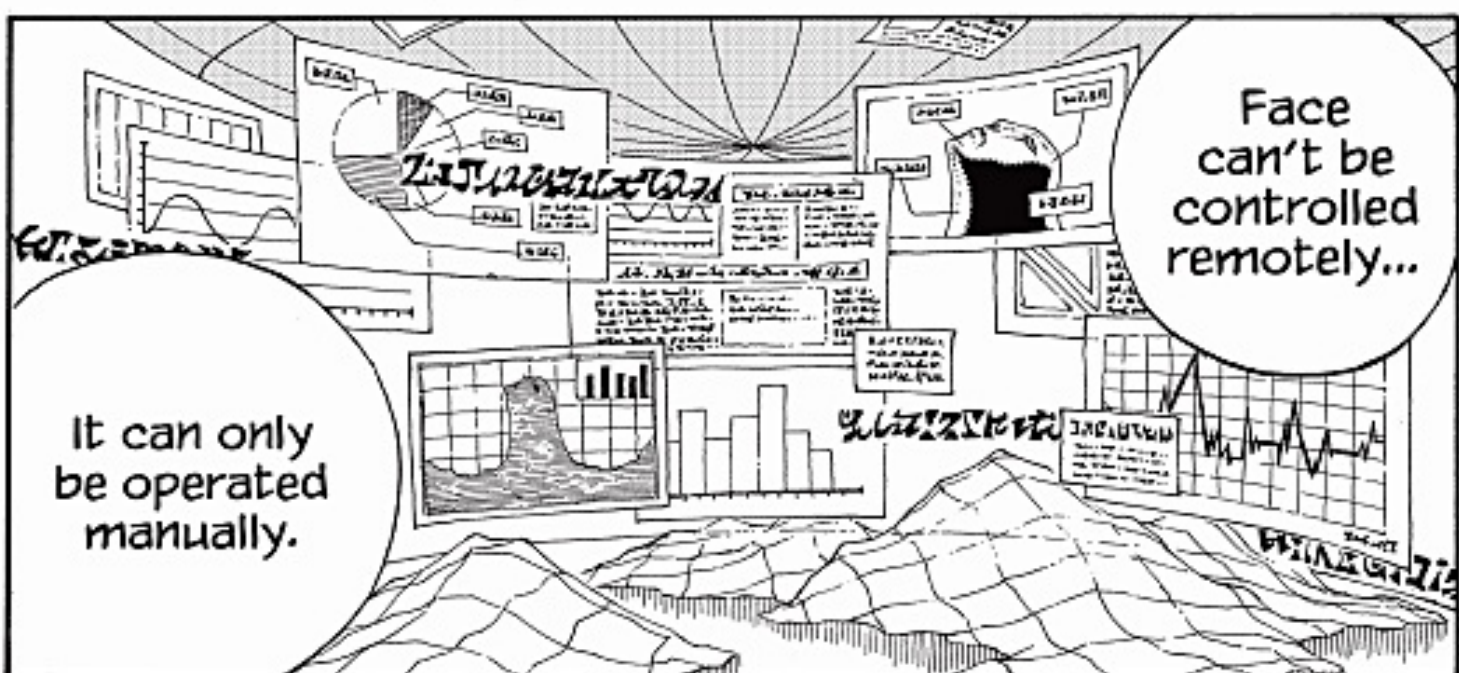
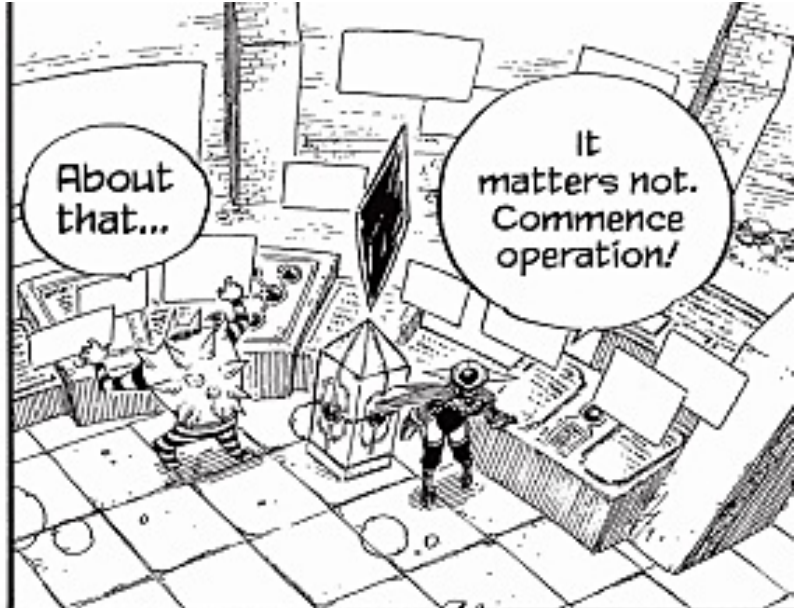
Not
at *me*!!
There!!

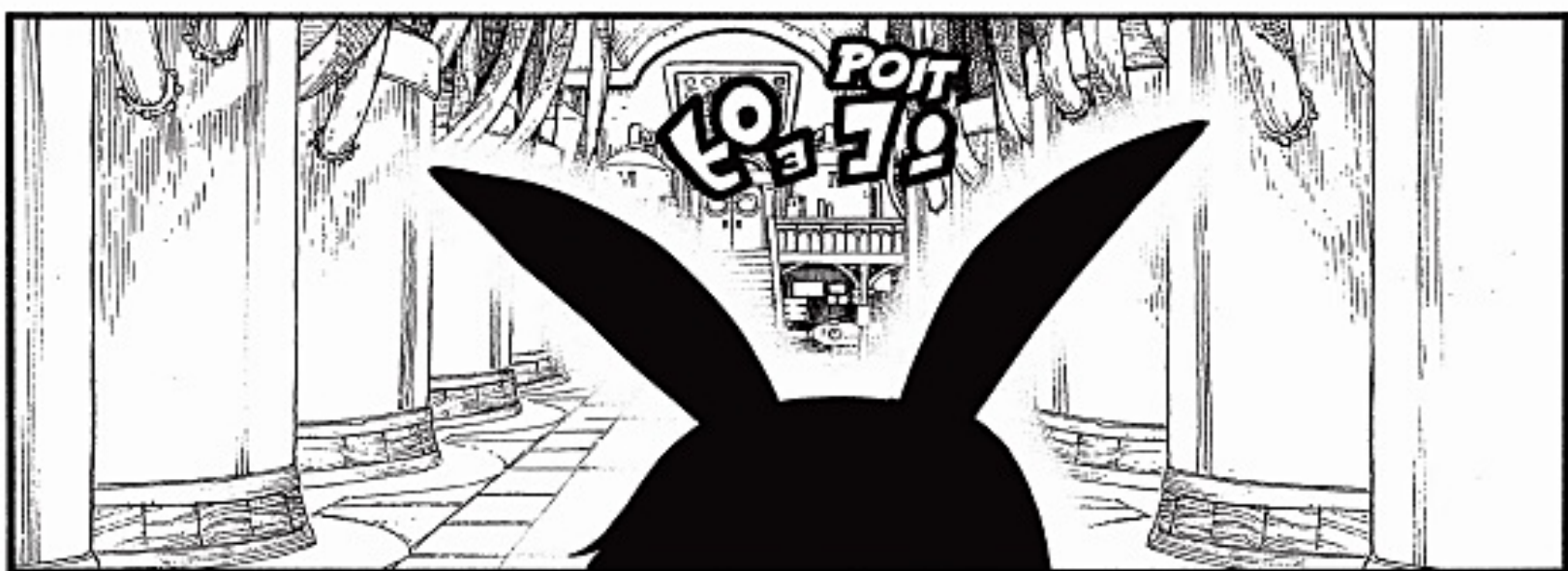
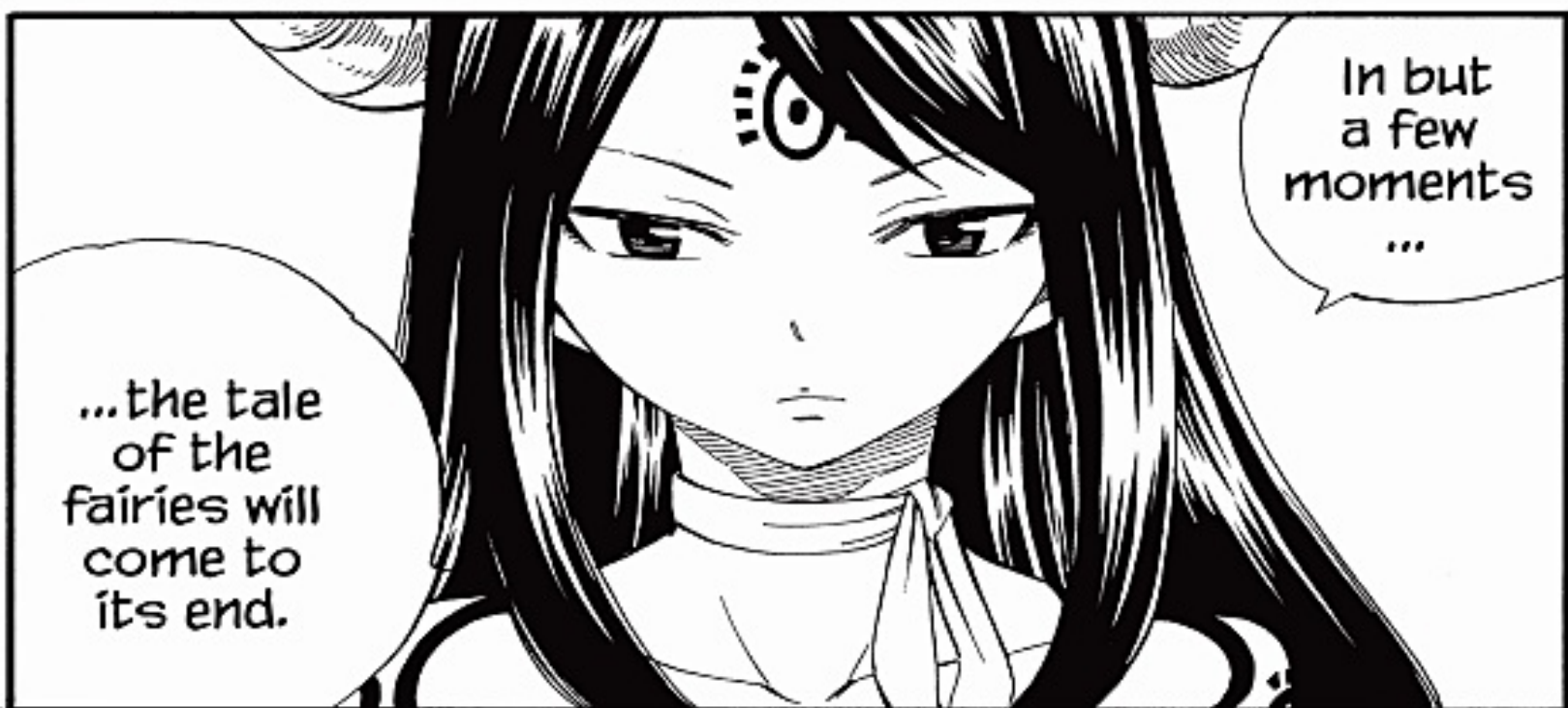
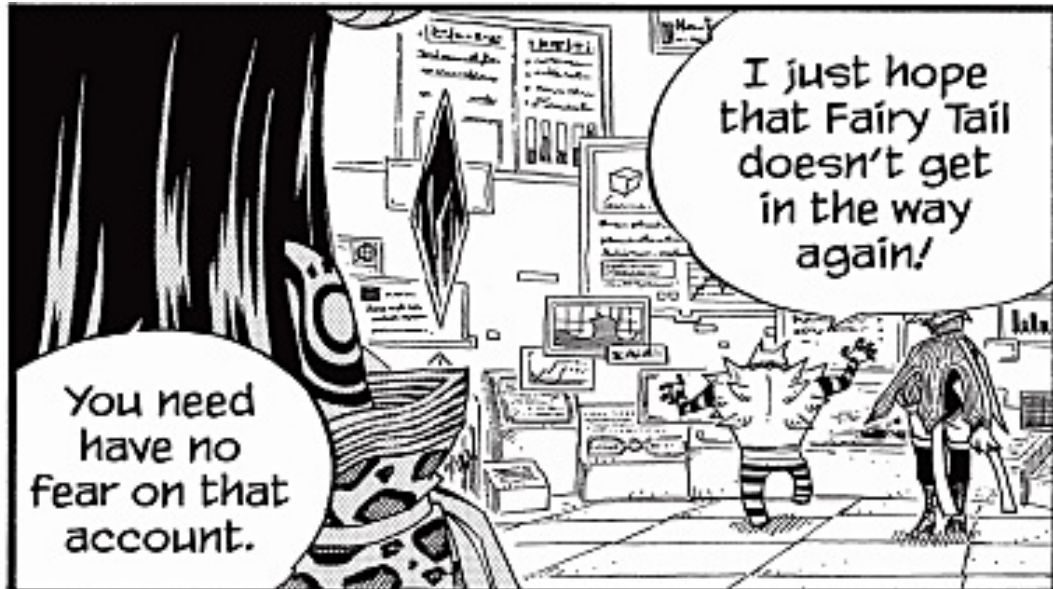
VSSH

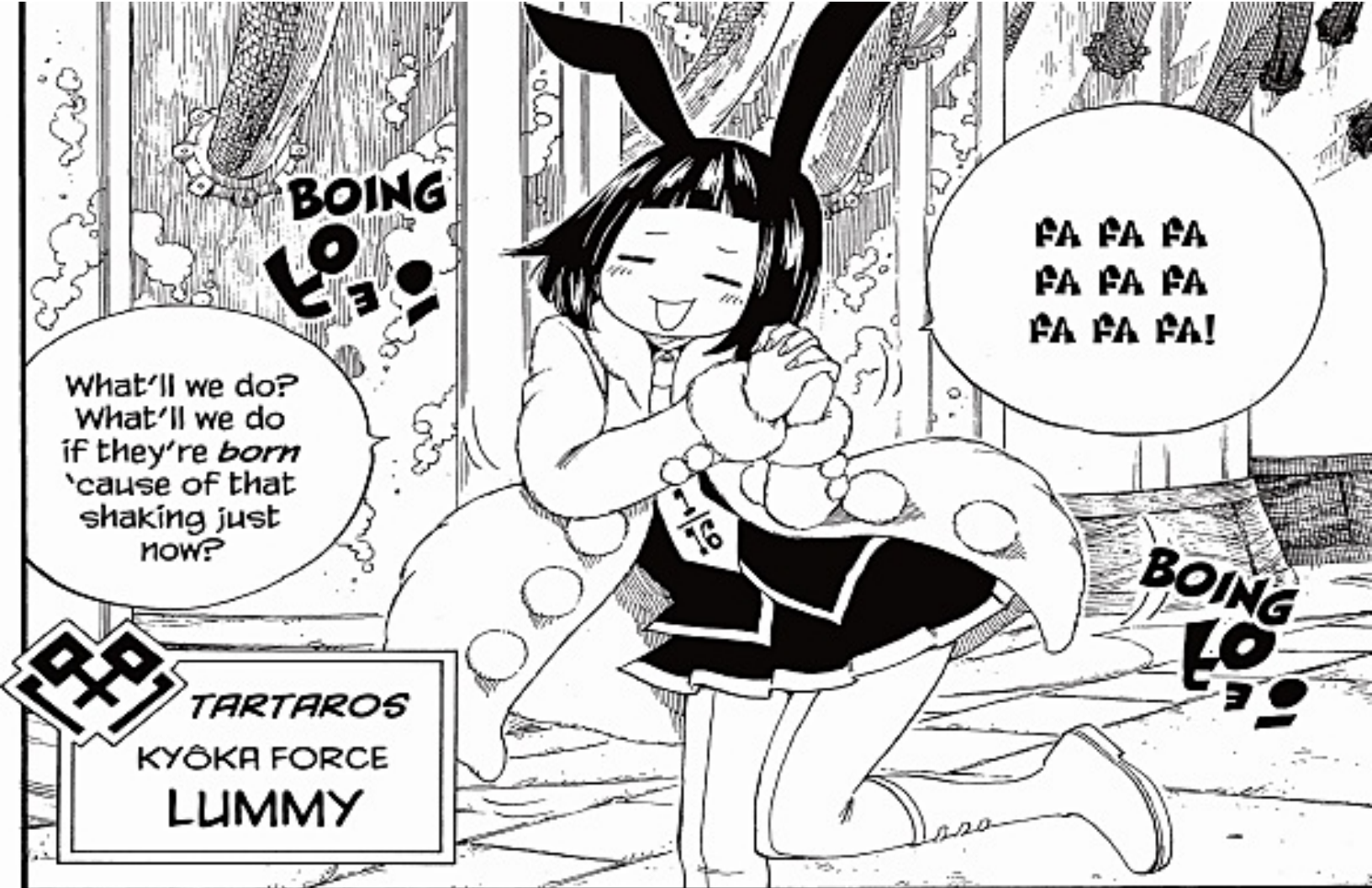
STAAARE

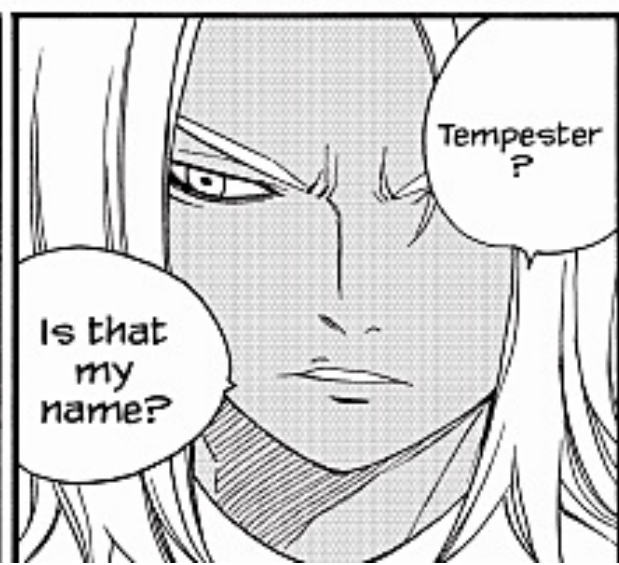
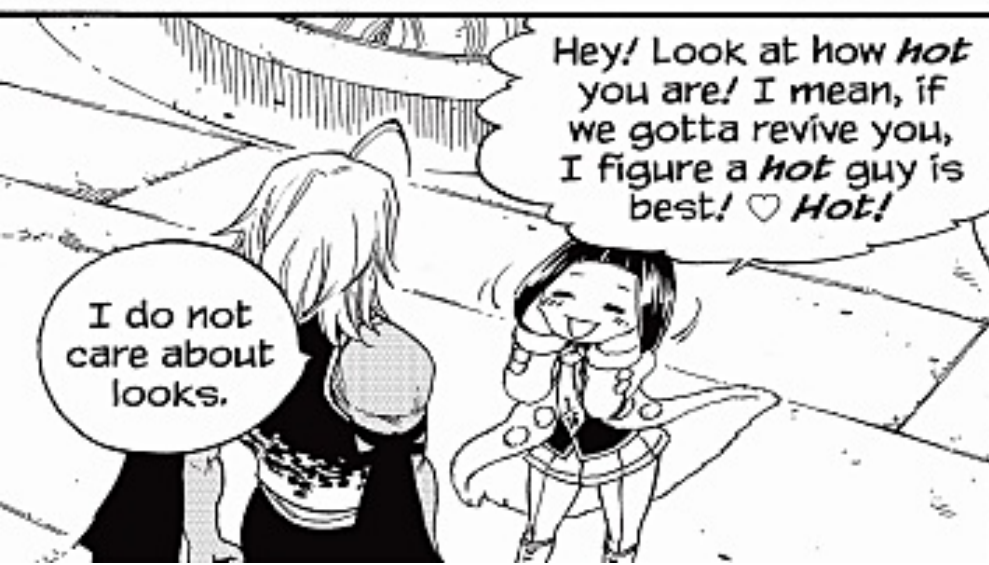
!

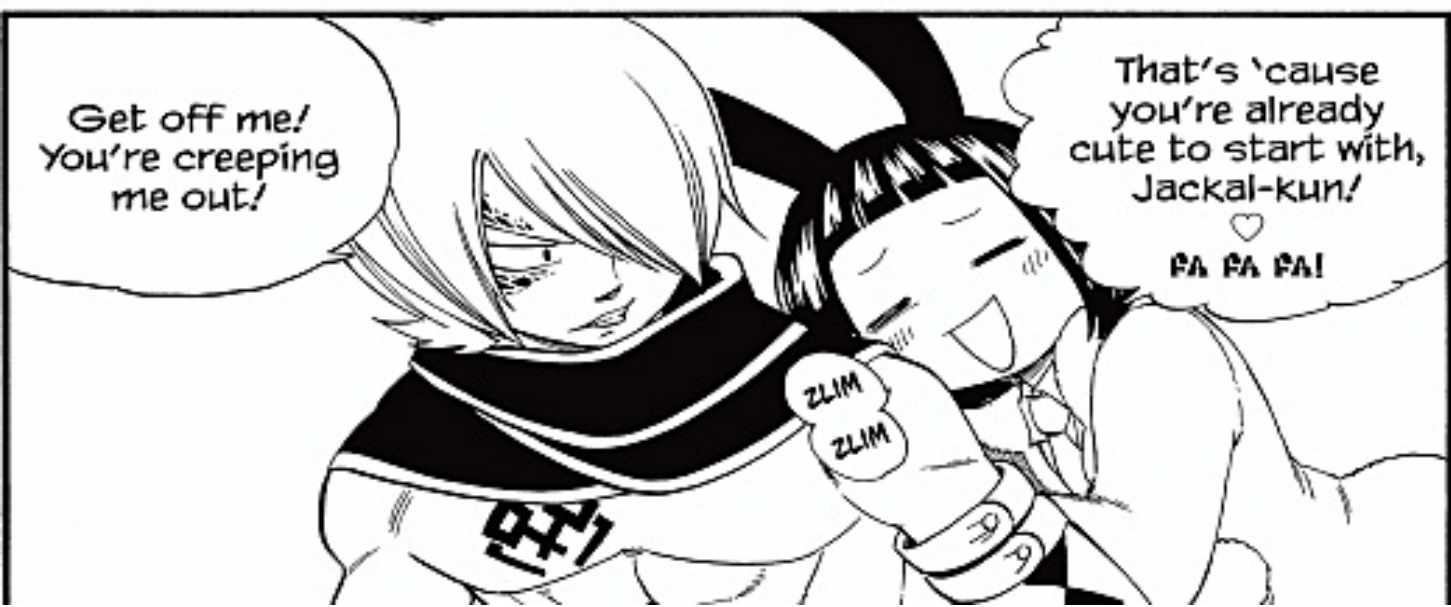














So this is
a demon's
power...?

I feel it
surging
within
me...

Fairy Tail volume 43 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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TOMARE!



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go to the *end*!

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